



DELAWARE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

May 6, 2021

Senator Thomas R. Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Senator Christopher A. Coons
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester
1724 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Delaware Congressional Delegation:

Representation is at the very heart of what we as elected officials do: We represent constituents. We represent their issues, concerns, beliefs and interests, and we take action on their behalf. It is a basic function of government that ensures that all residents have a voice in the decisions that impact their lives.

But for 712,000 American citizens living just 90 miles away, representation has been denied, despite their repeated requests to be made whole. The residents of Washington, D.C., live just footsteps from the seat of the United States government, but they have no say in the public policy that is enacted there. Despite District of Columbia residents endorsing statehood via a district-wide referendum in 2016 by 86 percent, Congress has refused to take action.

We write to fully endorse and support S.51, legislation from Senator Carper that would establish Washington, D.C., as the 51st state in our union. We thank Senator Coons and Representative Blunt Rochester for their support of this important and historic legislation, and we urge you to act decisively to ensure that these Americans' voices are heard and represented.

By making the District of Columbia a state, Congress will finally give District citizens full voting representation in our government, which will also give them control of their local affairs. As we witnessed earlier this year, our capital's status as a district prevented local leaders from activating its own National Guard unit during the January 6th insurrection or accepting aid from neighboring states. This led to a delay in critical assistance that could have stopped the riot in its early stages and saved lives.

No other democratic nation denies its capital's residents the right to self-govern or to participate in the national legislature. Congress has repeatedly interfered with the District's attempts to self-govern, including barring how they spend locally raised revenue.

As of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the District of Columbia has a population comparable to states such as Wyoming, Vermont, Alaska and North Dakota. District residents pay more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, serve on federal juries, and defend our nation as part of the U.S. military.

Despite their contributions, the residents of the District of Columbia continue to be treated as second-class citizens. Until Congress takes decisive action and honors their request to become a state, we cannot profess to hold true to the belief that all are created equal.

We, the undersigned members of the Delaware House of Representatives, urge the United States Congress to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C. The State of Delaware supports admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States of America.

Sincerely,



Rep. Madinah Wilson-Anton
26th District



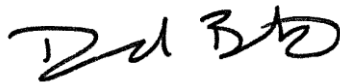
Rep. Larry Lambert
7th District



Rep. Paul S. Baumbach
23rd District



Rep. Valerie Longhurst
House Majority Leader



Rep. David Bentz
18th District



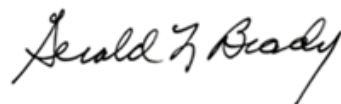
Rep. Sean M. Lynn
31st District



Rep. Stephanie T. Bolden
2nd District



Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown
17th District



Rep. Gerald L. Brady
4th District



Rep. John L. Mitchell
House Majority Whip



Rep. William J. Carson
28th District



Rep. Sharae'a Moore
8th District



Rep. Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha
1st District



Rep. Eric Morrison
27th District



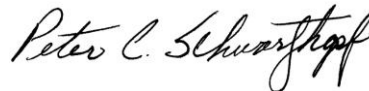
Rep. Sherry Dorsey Walker
3rd District



Rep. Edward S. Osienski
24th District



Rep. Kendra Johnson
5th District



Rep. Peter C. Schwartzkopf
Speaker of the House



Rep. John A. Kowalko
25th District



Sen. Marie Pinkney
13th District



Sen. Kyle Evans Gay
5th District



Sen. David P. Sokola
Senate President Pro Tempore



Sen. Elizabeth Lockman
Senate Majority Whip



Sen. Bryan Townsend
Senate Majority Leader



Sen. Sarah McBride
1st District