

Senate Joint Memorial 6

Sponsored by Senator GORSEK

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to enact legislation granting statehood to Washington, D.C.

JOINT MEMORIAL

1
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legisla-
5 tive session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas the people living on the land that would eventually be designated as the District of
7 Columbia were provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when the United States
8 Constitution was ratified in 1788; and

9 Whereas the passage of the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of
10 Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United States Congress and abolished residents' right
11 to vote for members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the United States; and

12 Whereas residents of the District of Columbia were granted the right to vote for the President
13 and Vice President of the United States through passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to the
14 United States Constitution in 1961; and

15 Whereas as of 2020, United States Census Bureau data estimate that the District of Columbia's
16 population of approximately 700,000 residents is comparable to the populations of Wyoming,
17 Vermont, Alaska and North Dakota; and

18 Whereas residents of the District of Columbia share all the responsibilities of United States
19 citizenship, including paying more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, service on federal juries
20 and defending the nation as members of the Armed Forces of the United States in every war since
21 the War for Independence, yet they are denied full representation in Congress; and

22 Whereas the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have endorsed statehood for the
23 District of Columbia and passed a district-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which favored
24 statehood by 86 percent; and

25 Whereas no other democratic nation denies the right of self-government, including participation
26 in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

27 Whereas the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality and citizenship
28 enjoyed by the residents of the 50 states; and

29 Whereas the United States Congress repeatedly has interfered with the District of Columbia's
30 limited self-government by enacting laws that affect the District of Columbia's expenditure of its
31 locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus violating the
32 fundamental principle that states and local governments are best suited to enact legislation that

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 represents the will of their citizens; and

2 Whereas although the District of Columbia has passed consecutive balanced budgets since fiscal
3 year 1997, it still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of congressional deliber-
4 ations over the federal budget; and

5 Whereas District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom
6 Carper introduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act,
7 which provides that the people of the State of Washington, D.C., would have all the rights of citi-
8 zenship as taxpaying American citizens, including representation by two Senators and at least one
9 House member; and

10 Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Committee has called on the United States Congress
11 to address the District of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of American
12 States has declared the disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents to be a violation of its
13 charter agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now, therefore,

14 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

15 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress
16 of the United States to pass, and the President to sign, legislation granting statehood to Washington,
17 D.C.; and be it further

18 Resolved, That the State of Oregon supports admitting Washington, D.C., into the Union as a
19 state of the United States of America; and be it further

20 Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to
21 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member
22 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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