

## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 12

Reps. Cynthia Johnson, Brabec, Ellison, Aiyash, Young, Hammoud, Sowerby, Camilleri, Lasinski, Brenda Carter, Weiss, Cavanagh, Scott, Kuppa, Hood and Yancey offered the following concurrent resolution:

1           A concurrent resolution to support admitting Washington, D.C.  
2 into the Union as a state of the United States of America and to  
3 urge the United States Congress to enact legislation granting  
4 statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

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

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

1           Whereas, Residents of the District of Columbia were granted  
2 the right to vote for electors of the President and Vice President  
3 through passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to the U.S.  
4 Constitution in 1961, but they still lack full representation in  
5 Congress; and

6           Whereas, As of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau estimates that the  
7 District of Columbia's resident population is almost 690,000,  
8 comparable to the populations of Wyoming (576,851), Vermont  
9 (643,077), Alaska (733,391), and North Dakota (779,094); and

10           Whereas, Residents of the District of Columbia share all of  
11 the responsibilities of citizenship, including paying federal  
12 taxes, serving on federal juries, and defending the country as  
13 members of the U.S. Armed Forces, yet they are denied full  
14 representation in Congress; and

15           Whereas, Congress has repeatedly interfered with the District  
16 of Columbia's limited self-government by enacting laws that affect  
17 its expenditure of locally-raised tax revenue. This interference  
18 has included barring the use of local revenue, violating a  
19 fundamental principle of democracy that states and local  
20 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents  
21 the will of their citizens; and

22           Whereas, Although the District of Columbia has passed  
23 consecutive balanced budgets since 1997, it still faces the  
24 possibility of being shut down yearly because of congressional  
25 deliberations over the federal budget; and

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

29           Whereas, No other democratic nation denies the right of self-

1 government, including participation in its national legislature, to  
2 the residents of its capital. The United Nations Human Rights  
3 Committee has called on Congress to address the District of  
4 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of  
5 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of District of  
6 Columbia residents a violation of its charter agreement to which  
7 the United States is a signatory; and

8       Whereas, The residents of the District of Columbia have  
9 endorsed statehood and passed a referendum on November 8, 2016,  
10 which favored statehood with nearly 86 percent of voters approving;  
11 and

12       Whereas, It is time for Congress to act on this matter and  
13 grant residents of Washington, D.C. the same rights enjoyed by  
14 residents of the 50 states. District of Columbia U.S. Delegate  
15 Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom Carper have  
16 introduced H.R. 51 and S. 51, respectively, the Washington, D.C.  
17 Admission Act, to admit the state of Washington, Douglass  
18 Commonwealth into the Union; now, therefore, be it

19       Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate  
20 concurring), That we support admitting Washington, D.C. into the  
21 Union as a state of the United States of America and urge the  
22 United States Congress to enact legislation granting statehood to  
23 the people of Washington, D.C.; and be it further

24       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
25 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United  
26 States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan  
27 congressional delegation.