



HJ0016

LRB102 16255 ECR 21637 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The people living on the land that would  
3 eventually be designated as the District of Columbia were  
4 provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when  
5 the United States Constitution was ratified in 1788; and

6 WHEREAS, The passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the  
7 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the  
8 United States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote  
9 for members of Congress and the President and Vice President  
10 of the United States; and

11 WHEREAS, Residents of the District of Columbia were  
12 granted the right to vote for the President and Vice President  
13 through passage of the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United  
14 States Constitution in 1961; and

15 WHEREAS, As of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau data estimates  
16 that the District of Columbia's population at approximately  
17 712,000 residents is comparable to the populations of Wyoming  
18 (582,000), Vermont (623,000), Alaska (731,000), and North  
19 Dakota (765,000); and

20 WHEREAS, Residents of the District of Columbia share all  
21 the responsibilities of United States citizenship, including

1 paying more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, serving  
2 on federal juries, and defending the United States as members  
3 of the United States armed forces in every war since the War  
4 for Independence; yet, they are denied full representation in  
5 Congress; and

6 WHEREAS, The residents of the District of Columbia  
7 themselves have endorsed statehood for the District of  
8 Columbia and passed a District-wide referendum on November 8,  
9 2016 which favored statehood by 86%; and

10 WHEREAS, No other democratic nation denies the right of  
11 self-government, including participation in its national  
12 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

13 WHEREAS, The residents of the District of Columbia lack  
14 full democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the  
15 residents of the 50 states; and

16 WHEREAS, The United States Congress has interfered  
17 repeatedly with the District of Columbia's limited  
18 self-government by enacting laws that affect the District of  
19 Columbia's expenditure of its locally-raised tax revenue; this  
20 includes barring the usage of locally-raised revenue, thus  
21 violating the fundamental principle that states and local  
22 governments are best suited to enact legislation that

1 represents the will of their citizens; and

2 WHEREAS, Although the District of Columbia has passed  
3 consecutive balanced budgets since FY 1997, it still faces the  
4 possibility of being shut down yearly because of Congressional  
5 deliberations over the federal budget; and

6 WHEREAS, In the 117th Congress, District of Columbia  
7 Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom  
8 Carper introduced H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C.  
9 Admission Act, that provides that the State of Washington,  
10 D.C. would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying  
11 American citizens, including two Senators and at least one  
12 House member; and

13 WHEREAS, The United Nations Human Rights Committee has  
14 called on the United States Congress to address the District  
15 of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization  
16 of American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the  
17 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter  
18 agreement to which the United States is a signatory;  
19 therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
21 HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
22 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the members of the

1 United States Congress to enact federal legislation granting  
2 statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.; and be it further

3       RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois supports admitting  
4 Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States  
5 of America.