



SR0038

LRB103 29565 ECR 55960 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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