

ENROLLED ORIGINAL

A CEREMONIAL RESOLUTION

25-61

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

April 4, 2023

To officially declare May 1st, 2023, as D.C. Statehood Day in the District of Columbia.

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia's over 700,000 citizens pay more federal income taxes than 22 states, and more federal income taxes per capita than any state;

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution that was ratified in 1788 provided the right to vote for representation in Congress to the "People of the several States" of the United States, which included citizens living on the land that would later be designated by the federal government for the nation's capital as ceded by Maryland and Virginia to become the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, despite the provision of the right of vote in the Constitution, through the enactment of the "District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801", D.C. residents were disenfranchised from voting for representative Members of Congress more than 200 years ago;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has more citizens than the States of Vermont and Wyoming, and almost as many as Montana and North Dakota;

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia continue to express their determination to achieve full representation by electing 2 United States Senators and a United States Representative to advocate for statehood and full democracy;

WHEREAS, citizens of the District of Columbia bear all of the responsibilities of citizenship, including fighting in wars and serving in the military, paying federal income taxes, and serving on federal juries;

WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies basic rights of self-government, including participation in its national legislature, to capital residents;

WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee and the Organization of American States (OAS) have called out this disenfranchisement of D.C. residents, with OAS stating that it is a violation of its charter agreement to which the U.S. is a signatory;

WHEREAS, Congress often interferes in legislation passed by D.C.'s locally elected officials by enacting spending restrictions on D.C. revenue, violating the fundamental principle that states and local governments are best-suited to follow the will of their citizens;

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WHEREAS, in spite of nearly 3 decades of balanced budgets, D.C. faces the possibility each year of being shut down because of congressional interference, threatening both D.C. and national security;

WHEREAS, it has been more than 50 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and more than 40 years since the District of Columbia was granted home rule, and the residents of the District of Columbia have yet to have the same rights as the residents of the 50 states.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “D.C. Statehood Day Recognition Resolution of 2023.”

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia hereby declares May 1st, 2023 to be D.C. Statehood Day and encourages leaders and residents to discuss statehood for the District of Columbia in high-profile settings in an effort to educate Americans regarding the lack of congressional voting representation and budget autonomy for the residents of the District.

Sec. 3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.