

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 8

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Brenda G. McKenna and Leo Jaramillo and Shannon D. Pinto and  
5 Harold Pope and Benny Shendo, Jr.  
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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING CONGRESS TO ADMIT WASHINGTON, D.C., INTO THE UNION  
12 AS A STATE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.  
13

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

18 WHEREAS, the passage of the federal District of Columbia  
19 Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of Columbia under the  
20 exclusive authority of Congress and abolished residents' right  
21 to vote for members of Congress and the president and vice  
22 president of the United States; and

23 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were  
24 granted the right to vote for the president and vice president  
25 through passage of the twenty-third amendment to the United

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1 States constitution in 1961; and

2 WHEREAS, as of 2021, the United States census bureau  
3 estimates that the District of Columbia's population (six  
4 hundred eighty-nine thousand five hundred forty-five) is  
5 comparable to the populations of Wyoming (five hundred seventy-  
6 six thousand eight hundred fifty-one), Vermont (six hundred  
7 forty-three thousand seventy-seven), Alaska (seven hundred  
8 thirty-three thousand three hundred ninety-one) and North  
9 Dakota (seven hundred seventy-nine thousand ninety-four); and

10 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia share  
11 all the responsibilities of United States citizenship,  
12 including paying more federal taxes than residents of twenty-  
13 two states, serving on federal juries and defending the United  
14 States as members of the United States armed forces in every  
15 war since the Revolutionary War, yet they are denied full  
16 representation in Congress; and

17 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia have  
18 endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia and passed a  
19 districtwide referendum on November 8, 2016 that favored  
20 statehood by eighty-six percent; and

21 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of  
22 self-government, including participation in its national  
23 legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

24 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack  
25 full democracy, equality and citizenship enjoyed by the

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1 residents of the fifty states; and

2 WHEREAS, Congress repeatedly has interfered with the  
3 District of Columbia's limited self-government by enacting laws  
4 that affect the District of Columbia's expenditure of its  
5 locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of  
6 locally raised revenue, thus violating the fundamental  
7 principle that states and local governments are best suited to  
8 enact legislation that represents the will of their citizens;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed  
11 consecutive balanced budgets since fiscal year 1997, it still  
12 faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of  
13 Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and

14 WHEREAS, District of Columbia delegate Eleanor Holmes  
15 Norton introduced House Resolution 51 in the one hundred  
16 seventeenth Congress and Delaware senator Tom Carper introduced  
17 Senate Bill 51 in the one hundred seventeenth Congress, both of  
18 which are known as the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which  
19 act would provide that residents of the State of Washington,  
20 D.C., would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying  
21 American citizens, including two senators and at least one  
22 house member; and

23 WHEREAS, the United Nations human rights committee has  
24 called on the United States Congress to address the District of  
25 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the organization of

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1 American states has declared the disenfranchisement of the  
2 District of Columbia residents to be a violation of its charter  
3 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
5 OF NEW MEXICO that members of the United States Congress be  
6 urged to enact federal legislation granting statehood to  
7 Washington, D.C.; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico senate support  
9 admitting Washington, D.C., into the union as a state of the  
10 United States of America; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the president and vice president of the United  
13 States, the speaker of the United States house of  
14 representatives, the president pro tempore of the United States  
15 senate and the members of the New Mexico Congressional  
16 delegation.

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