

By: Representative Karriem

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO
2 ENACT LEGISLATION THAT GRANTS STATEHOOD TO THE PEOPLE OF
3 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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

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

13 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted
14 the right to vote for the President and Vice President through
15 passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to the United States
16 Constitution in 1961; and

17 WHEREAS, as of 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau data estimates
18 that the District of Columbia's population of approximately



19 689,545 residents is comparable to the populations of Wyoming
20 (576,851), Vermont (643,077), Alaska (733,391), and North Dakota
21 (779,094); and

22 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all the
23 responsibilities of United States citizenship, including paying
24 more federal taxes than residents of twenty-two states, service on
25 federal juries, and defending the United States as members of the
26 United States Armed Forces in every war since the War for
27 Independence, yet they are denied full representation in Congress;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia themselves
30 have endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia and passed a
31 district-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which favored
32 statehood by 86%; and

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

36 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full
37 democracy, equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the residents of
38 the 50 states; and

39 WHEREAS, the United States Congress repeatedly has interfered
40 with the District of Columbia's limited self-government by
41 enacting laws that affect the District of Columbia's expenditure
42 of its locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of
43 locally raised revenue, thus violating the fundamental principle



44 that states and local governments are best suited to enact
45 legislation that represents the will of their citizens; and

46 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed
47 consecutive balanced budgets since fiscal year 1997, it still
48 faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of
49 congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and

50 WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton
51 and Delaware U.S. Senator Tom Carper introduced in the 117th
52 Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act,
53 that provides that the State of Washington, D.C. would have all
54 the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American citizens,
55 including two Senators and at least one House member; and

56 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has called
57 on the United States Congress to address the District of
58 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of
59 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the
60 District of Columbia residents a violation of its charter
61 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory:

62 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
63 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
64 THEREIN, That we hereby urge the United States Congress to enact
65 legislation that grants statehood to the people of Washington,
66 D.C.



67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the State of Mississippi
68 supports admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of
69 the United States of America.

70 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
71 furnished to the members of the United States Congress.

