



September 18, 2019

House Committee on Oversight and Reform  
Representative Elijah Cummings – Chair  
Representative Jim Jordan – Ranking Member  
cc: House Committee on Oversight and Reform Members  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cummings and Ranking Member Jordan:

Our nation was founded, in part, as a response to the tyranny of taxation without representation laid upon the people of the colonies by the British Crown. More than two-hundred years have passed since the United States declared our independence from that oppression. Yet, for the seven hundred thousand Americans who call Washington, DC home, this unjust system remains.

The Congress of the United States has gone beyond the efforts of King George III, by denying self-rule and impacting local laws and the spending of locally raised revenue. Liberty, the ability of a people to govern themselves is an American value, held deeply by both the Congress and the people it represents. Yet every day, Washingtonians are denied that fundamental right.

As you hear testimony and consider H.R. 51, the Washington, DC Admissions Act, we, the undersigned organizations, urge you to uphold the founding principles of our democracy and our deeply held values and support full and equal representation for the people of Washington, DC.

This is not simply a matter of extending representation to the residents of Washington, DC, more than half of whom are people of color. States are the fundamental basis for our system of government and to deny a population the ability to form a state denies them the ability to fully participate in self-governance. Any solution short of statehood would simply continue the two-tiered system of citizenship present in our democracy today.

H.R. 51 preserves a constitutionally required Federal District that enshrines the area that houses the three branches of our federal government, our iconic monuments, and the National Mall and preserves it for all Americans. At the same time, it creates the 51<sup>st</sup> State out of the neighborhoods and commercial areas populated by those of us who call DC home. Statehood upholds all of the Constitution by protecting the Federal Government from control of any one state and ending the un-American exclusion of the people of Washington, DC.

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(202) 462-6000 ♦ [www.dcvote.org](http://www.dcvote.org) ♦ [info@dcvote.org](mailto:info@dcvote.org)



We urge you to forward H.R. 51, the Washington, DC Admissions Act for consideration by the full United States House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

DC Vote	DC Appleseed
5 Calls Civic Action	DC Democratic State Committee
51 for 51	DC Environmental Network,
ACLU-DC	Global Green USA
AFL-CIO	DC Federation of Democratic Women
Alliance for Justice	DC for Democracy
American Association of University Women	DC Metro Adapt
American Ethical Union	DC Statehood - Yes We Can!
American Family Voices	DC Statehood Green Party
American Federation of Government	Death with Dignity National Center
Employees	Defending Rights & Dissent
American Federation of Teachers	Demand Justice
Americans for Democratic Action	The Democracy Initiative
Americans for Self-Rule	Democracy 21
Anacostia Coordinating Council	Democracy for America
Brady	Demos
BYP100 DC	End Citizens United Action Fund
Campaign for Youth Justice	Endangered Species Coalition
Campaign Legal Center	Equality Federation
Can't Stop! Won't Stop!	Food and Water Watch
Center for American Progress	Free Speech for People
Center for Black Equity	Friends of the Earth
Center for Disability Rights, Inc.	Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance
Center for Environmental Health	Generation Progress
Center for Popular Democracy	Gertrude Stein Democratic Club
Clean Water Action	Greenpeace US
Coalition to Stop Gun Violence	Health in Justice Action Lab
Collier Collective, LLC	Northeastern University School of Law
Color of Change	Hip Hop Caucus
Communications Workers of America	HIPS
Community Change	Human Rights Campaign
CREDO Action	Indivisible
DC Abortion Fund	



International Association of Machinists  
and Aerospace Workers  
Jewish Women International  
Jews United for Justice  
Lambda Legal  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and  
Human Rights  
League of Conservation Voters  
League Of Women Voters of  
The District of Columbia  
League Of Women Voters of The Us  
Let America Vote  
March for Our Lives  
March for Our Lives DC  
Mommieactivist and Sons  
MomsRising  
MoveON  
NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Action Network  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Community Reinvestment  
Coalition  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council on Independent Living  
National Education Association  
National Equality Action Team  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Federation of Democratic Women  
National Lawyers Guild - DC Chapter  
National LGBT Chamber of Commerce  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Organization for Women  
DC Chapter  
National Partnership for Women &  
Families  
National Treasury Employees Union  
(NTEU)  
National Women's Law Center  
Neighbors United for DC Statehood

NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social  
Justice  
New Progressive Alliance  
Newtown Action Alliance  
NOPE Neighbors  
NORML  
Our Maryland  
Our Revolution  
Patriotic Millionaires  
People Demanding Action  
People for the American Way  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Pride at Work  
Progressive Change Campaign Committee  
Progressive Turnout Project  
Public Citizen  
Public Justice Center  
Rural Coalition  
Sexuality Information and Education  
Council of the United States  
Sierra Club  
SIEU 32BJ  
Small Planet Institute  
Students for DC Statehood  
Students for Sensible Drug Policy  
The D.C. Statehood Coalition  
The Justice Roundtable  
The Taifa Group, LLC  
Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
(URGE)  
UNITE Here Local 25  
United State of Women  
Veterans for DC Statehood  
Ward 3 Democrats  
Ward 8 Democrats  
Washington Ethical Society  
Washington Lawyer's Committee  
Working Families Party - DC