



December 1, 2025

The Honorable James Comer  
Chairman  
House Oversight Committee  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert Garcia  
Ranking Member  
House Oversight Committee  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Comer and Ranking Member Garcia:

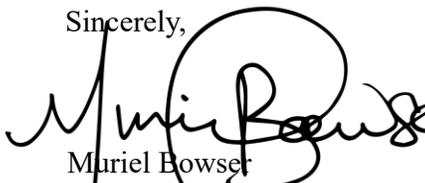
On behalf of the District of Columbia, we write in strong, unified opposition to H.R. 3766, which would prohibit the District from requiring DC courts to defer to agency interpretations of statutes and regulations. This bill is another clear example of federal overreach into local governance, directly undermining Home Rule and the fundamental right of District residents to local self-governance.

We urge Congress to reject H.R. 3766 for the following reasons:

- The proposal would block the District from ensuring that its local courts weigh the expertise and considered judgment of District agencies, threatening decades of DC court precedent and the effective operation of local government.
- If courts do not defer to District agencies' interpretations, they may threaten the District's ability to enforce and interpret laws critical to the District government's ability to respond to public safety challenges and ensure accountability.
- DC courts, like those elsewhere, frequently grant deference to agencies' and executive officials' specialized legal interpretations. Congress should not hamstring the District's ability to ensure such deference continues in the District.
- The District has less autonomy over its judiciary than any state, and the federal intervention reflected in this bill disrespects the rights of DC voters and erodes our democracy.

We are united in calling on Congress to respect DC's ability to govern itself and to reject H.R. 3766. Our residents deserve a government able to respond to their needs without unnecessary federal obstacles.

Sincerely,

  
Muriel Bowser  
Mayor of the District of Columbia

  
Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

  
Brian Schwalb  
Attorney General of the District of Columbia