



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Office of the President

September 9, 2019

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
Chair
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Ranking Member
House Committee on Oversight and Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cummings and Congressman Jordan:

As you know, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has introduced H.R. 51, the “Washington, D.C. Admission Act.” I write today to express my gratitude to you for holding this important hearing to discuss the issue of statehood for our city.

As a university located in our nation’s capital, we have a deep commitment to the goals of this proposed legislation. Its enactment would give Georgetown University and other Washington, D.C. colleges and universities a voting representative in the House of Representatives, an important resource enjoyed by other post-secondary institutions. Beyond that, there are fundamental issues of equity that this legislation would address.

Every state in the union is represented among the Georgetown University student body. Many of our students and alumni who live and work in our nation’s capital believe strongly that the lack of voting representation for the more than 700,000 residents of the District is a long-standing injustice that should be remedied without further delay.

Likewise, given Georgetown’s international reach and presence, I am keenly aware of the fact that, while we as a nation are engaged in promoting the strengthening of democracy around the world, the full democratic rights of the residents of the District of Columbia have not been provided. Ironically, nations around the world who have modeled their own systems of government on our U.S. Constitution have provided voting representation in their national legislative bodies for residents of their capital cities.

It is encouraging that you are holding this hearing to discuss this important legislation. On behalf of this University which was founded in 1789 at the birth of the Republic, I ask you to lend your support to the enactment of H.R. 51. Thank you, for your consideration and for your service on behalf of our nation.

Sincerely,

John J. DeGioia