



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.



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

5 Calls Civic Action

51 for 51

ACLU-DC

AFL-CIO

Alliance for Justice

American Association of University Women

American Ethical Union

American Family Voices

American Federation of Government  
Employees

American Federation of Teachers

Americans for Democratic Action

Americans for Self-Rule

Anacostia Coordinating Council

Brady

BYP100 DC

Campaign for Youth Justice

Campaign Legal Center

Can't Stop! Won't Stop!

Center for American Progress

Center for Black Equity

Center for Disability Rights, Inc.

Center for Environmental Health

Center for Popular Democracy

Clean Water Action

Coalition to Stop Gun Violence

Collier Collective, LLC

Color of Change

Communications Workers of America

Community Change

CREDO Action

DC Abortion Fund

DC Appleseed

DC Democratic State Committee

DC Environmental Network,  
Global Green USA

DC Federation of Democratic Women

DC for Democracy

DC Metro Adapt

DC Statehood - Yes We Can!

DC Statehood Green Party

Death with Dignity National Center

Defending Rights & Dissent

Demand Justice

The Democracy Initiative

Democracy 21

Democracy for America

Demos

End Citizens United Action Fund

Endangered Species Coalition

Equality Federation

Food and Water Watch

Free Speech for People

Friends of the Earth

Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance

Generation Progress

Gertrude Stein Democratic Club

Greenpeace US

Health in Justice Action Lab

Northeastern University School of Law

Hip Hop Caucus

HIPS

Human Rights Campaign

Indivisible



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

