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Written testimony submitted to the
Senate Workforce Development Committee

February 20, 2025

Dear Committee members:

I write in profound gratitude that you are considering this resolution supporting DC statehood which would give your fellow Americans who live in DC their full rights as citizens.

As you know, I and my nearly 700,000 neighbors have all the responsibilities of American citizens - paying federal taxes, serving on juries and in the military - yet have no voting representation in Congress and therefore no say on national legislation that affects us. The very definition of taxation with representation and contrary to the values this country is founded on.

Thank you for also opposing efforts to interfere with our home rule. As your resolution recognizes, Congress – in which we have no voting representation - can overturn our laws and direct how our own taxes are spent contrary to our needs and values. This profoundly undermines our country's principle of self-governance.

We came here for many reasons: some already lived here when DC was created (and before 37 other states were admitted to the union); many to escape slavery, others to serve our government; others for private sector jobs. My parents lived and died here, my sister lives here, my nephew was born here.

As you know, we have a plan to preserve the federal district as required in the Constitution, while making the residential and commercial part of DC into a state. We want the same rights all other Americans enjoy: control over our local government and a say in Congress. Thank you so much for supporting us.

Create a more perfect union!

D.C. STATEHOOD

*for 700,000
people who live here*

*and a Federal
District for the
U.S. Capital*

DC League of Women Voters
www.lwvdc.org

Virginia

Maryland

