

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 4009, a resolution urging Congress to support the admission of Washington, DC into the Union as a state of the United States.

My name is KT Beckman-Götrich and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.

I fell in love with the city and moved here to be closer to my partner and job opportunities. I've lived here since 2013 and we now own a small home in North Michigan Park, a quiet neighborhood near the Maryland on our east border. We have a regular life with our child at our neighborhood public school, my dad enjoying his twilight years with us, two white collar jobs, and a puppy to boot. Like every other American family, we work hard and deserve to be represented by Congress with voting members. Since my husband and I moved here we have been disenfranchised and see the effects doubly harming Native Washingtonians as multiple generations have fought tooth and nail for basic home rule.

Please join other states and lawmakers in support of our autonomy and voting rights. Please vote "yes" on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

Approximately the same number of people live in DC as live in North Dakota. Yet unlike the Peace Garden State we have no voting representatives in Congress. This means we have no say in federal laws, policies, and programs, and no one to champion our interests in debates over national priorities.

In addition, our local government is also at constant risk of interference from federal lawmakers. Without statehood, DC's power over issues like our local schools, health care, senior services, and other key programs are at constant risk of interference from members of Congress who we did not elect. This is an immediate danger to MY community and one which can only be permanently addressed through statehood.

Our capital city is not just beautiful landmarks, we DC residents pay the [highest federal taxes per capita](#) compared to any other state —yet we have no say in how the federal budget is spent.

Statehood for DC is the only solution to this problem. Strengthening democracy for DC will strengthen democracy everywhere, including for North Dakota communities. Correcting DC's lack of representation is an issue of justice, and as a DC resident I encourage you to be in solidarity with communities here and vote "yes" on SCR 4009.

Thank you for consideration of this important matter and the opportunity to testify on this incredibly important bill.

Sincerely,
KT Beckman-Götrich
Washington DC