

To the North Dakota Legislative Assembly:

Thank you for the chance 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 of America.

**My name is Andrew DeFrank and I am proud to have always been, and will always be, a Washingtonian.**

I grew up on South Carolina Avenue, a residential street in Southeast DC. I loved my neighborhood — I played Little League baseball, drove to football games with my dad, and took the metro across town once I was old enough. Now, I live in Dupont Circle, a neighborhood in Northwest DC, and am saving up to buy a home and hopefully raise my own children in the city.

My dad, a U.S. Army veteran, moved to Washington, DC in the 1970s for many of the same reasons people move anywhere else — economic opportunity, quality of life for his children, and finding passion through work and community. He's a great dad for many reasons, but the thing I'm most grateful for is his decision to raise me in Washington, DC. I love my neighbors, our neighborhood, and the people I've become friends with throughout my life in this city.

The big thing that's missing from my hometown is the fundamental rights virtually all other Americans enjoy — the right to vote and the freedom to be governed by people from your own state.

**I am asking you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009** and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

**About 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 is at constant risk of interference from members of Congress **who we did not elect.** This is a constant danger to our communities and one which can only be permanently addressed

through statehood.

**DC residents have served in every war, and there are currently [more than 8,000 DC residents serving in the US military](#) — yet we have no say in whether our country goes to war.**

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 considering this important matter and the opportunity to testify on this incredibly important bill.

Sincerely,

Andrew DeFrank  
Washington DC