

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 Kimberley Jutze, and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I have lived in Washington, DC for over 30 years and am a resident of the Glover Park neighborhood in Ward 3. I moved to DC shortly after graduating college and have since made it my home. I am the owner of a small business that provides organization development consulting services to nonprofits and socially responsible businesses.

I am urging you to 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, we have no voting representatives in Congress. This means that 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, affordable housing, senior services, and other key programs is at constant risk of interference from members of Congress who we did not elect and are unfamiliar with who we are and our issues because they do not live here. This is an immediate danger to our communities and one which can only be permanently addressed through statehood.

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. DC license plates, which read: Taxation Without Representation, are a daily reminder of our status as citizens who lack full representation, despite our contributions to the federal budget.

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 important bill.

Sincerely,
Kimberley Jutze
Washington, DC