

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 Christopher Szczypinski and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.**

**I have lived in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington DC for 5 years in a condominium with my partner and my pug. I work in town (not in politics!) selling plush toys for a small business owned by a husband and wife.**

**We enjoy living in the neighborhood and meeting up with other pug owners and sharing a good meal with friends. I love living in DC because it's a small "big" city where you know your neighbors and look out for one another, like a big family. We are much more than the center of American government. My neighbors are plumbers and teachers, social workers and chefs, and customer service managers for toy companies too ;)**

**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 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 an immediate 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 consideration of this important matter and the opportunity to testify on this incredibly important bill.

Sincerely,

Christopher Szczypinski  
Washington DC