

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 Michael Triebwasser and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. And at the ripe old age of 42, I'm also proud to say I have called the District of Columbia my home for nearly half my life and I can't imagine living anywhere else. Let me give you an idea why.

Over the past twenty years or so and in no particular order I've earned my college degree, gotten married, adopted a dog, volunteered regularly, made lifelong friends, run for a nonpartisan office in my neighborhood (I lost, but I'm still proud I did it!), voted in local and national elections, bought my very first home, helped manage a local small business and through a pandemic no less (an indie bookstore), checked out books from the public library, gone for a run in a local park, decorated my house for Halloween, bought many Christmas trees at the neighborhood school sale, done just so much shopping to support local businesses, and so much more and I've gotten to do all that from my home here in the District. I live, we all here live lives that are largely recognizable to anyone in the US. The one thing that is hugely different is that we don't have a full voice and vote in Congress, despite also being impacted by the laws Congress passes, and we don't have a full right to our self governance without federal interference like other states.

**I am urging you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009** and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home. We are a people just like in North Dakota or any other state, and we deserve access to the same rights as everyone else.

**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,

Michael Triebwasser  
Washington DC