

My name is Dave Reinersmann. I'm originally from the Philly area, but have lived in DC since 2017. I have the economic means to leave, though. If I wanted to, I could live across the river in Arlington, VA or Cheverly, MD. Both easy commutes to where I need to be, and nice neighborhoods, too. But I love DC. DC has given me so much: a marriage, friends, neighbors. A home.

A lot of those neighbors do not have the means to leave. I remember a conversation in a work break room with a young Black coworker from the Anacostia neighborhood. I said that she was one of the only people I'd met who had been born in the District. She said that working at this company was the first time she'd met anyone who hadn't been born here.

There are hundreds of thousands of people who live here, stocking shelves, waiting tables, cleaning streets, running small businesses, and even running the government. Some of those people will live here their whole lives, never having proper representation in Congress. They deserve it. Whether they can't leave or just don't want to.

DC wasn't my first home, but I love it here. It deserves to be treated with respect and dignity. The same respect and dignity as North Dakota and every other state. Thank you.

Dave Reinersmann
Washington, DC