

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit written testimony 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 Anne Cauman. I have been a resident of Washington, DC for 45 years where I have no voting Congressional representation. Since I turned 18, I have lived in 3 states where I could vote for a Congressman and 2 Senators (meaningful representation). My son no longer lives in DC so he has meaningful Congressional representation. One of those states where I could vote was North Dakota where I have happy memories of living in Bismarck while clerking for Federal District Judge Bruce Van Sickle. I still have friends from my Bismarck days.

Please vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people (including me and my husband) who live in DC. Somewhat fewer people live in DC than live in North Dakota, but we have more residents than Wyoming and Vermont and only roughly 30,000 fewer residents than Alaska. DC has over 100,000 more residents than Wyoming. Yet unlike North Dakota and states with fewer residents than either North Dakota or DC 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 with regard to national priorities. Our local government is at constant risk of interference from federal lawmakers. Without statehood, DC’s control over local issues like our public schools, senior services, and many other key programs is at constant risk of interference from members of Congress who we did not elect. The only way to end these risks is through granting us Statehood. DC residents have served in every war, but we have no say in whether the US goes to war. DC residents pay the highest federal taxes per capita in the country —yet we have no say in how the federal budget is spent.

Correcting DC’s lack of representation is an issue of justice, and as a DC resident I encourage you to assist your fellow citizens by voting “yes” on SCR 4009.

Thank you for your consideration.

Anne Cauman

Washington, DC