



**Testimony in Support of SCR 4009
Workforce Development Committee
February 20, 2025**

Chair Wobbema and Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee, my name is Carol Sawicki, and I am a board member and representative of the League of Women Voters of North Dakota. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of the resolution.

SCR 4009 urges the US Congress to support admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States. The League of Women Voters of North Dakota supports SCR 4009 for the following reasons:

- Citizens of the District of Columbia (DC) should be afforded the same rights of self-government and full voting representation in Congress as all other citizens of the United States.
- Lack of representation for the 700,000 people who call the nation's capital home—the majority of whom are Black or brown—gives the US the unfortunate distinction of being the only democracy in the world that denies the residents of its capital city the full rights of citizenship.¹
- Lack of representation in Congress has resulted in Congress blocking policies voted on by the people of DC, nullifying legislation passed by the district's local government, preventing the district from receiving its fair share of federal resources, and Congress exercising extensive authority over DC's budget.²
- DC residents pay more federal taxes than 23 states and more in federal taxes per capita than any other state, and yet they do not live with the benefit of one of the founding principles of our country: "no taxation without representation."³
- DC residents want statehood, which they made clear during a 2016 referendum where 86% of residents voted in favor of DC becoming the 51st state.⁴

The League of Women Voters of North Dakota urges the North Dakota Legislature to support the fundamental right of representation for the people of Washington, D.C. and asks the Senate Workforce Development Committee to give SCR 4009 a Do Pass recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

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¹ [LWVUS Urges Congress to Support DC Statehood](#)

² [Brennan Center for Justice, DC Statehood Explained](#)

³ [LWVUS Urges Congress to Support DC Statehood](#)

⁴ [LWVUS Urges Congress to Support DC Statehood](#)