

1200 Juniper Street, NW
Washington, DC 20012

Members of the Senate Workforce
Development Committee
North Dakota Senate
Bismarck, North Dakota

February 19, 2025

Dear Members of the Senate Workforce Development Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit 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 Celeste Garcia, and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I have lived in Washington for 25 years. Twenty years ago, I was blessed to purchase a home in one of my favorite neighborhoods, Shepherd Park near the Old Walter Reed Campus.

Given our lack of representation in the US House and Senate, I sometimes don't feel like a full-fledged American citizen. We have a delegate to Congress who cannot vote and no Senators. A national organization I belong to failed to include "Washington, DC" in an online letter-writing campaign to the Senate because we don't have two Senators like the 50 states. We had to remind them that we can write to the Senators in Maryland and Virginia even though we don't have as much influence as their constituents. That experience was like a gut punch to me.

Washington is a vibrant city with parks, beautiful neighborhoods, and new development. Our crime rate has gone down. Although Washington is not perfect, it is a great place to live, be a young adult, and raise a family. One of the things I love about the city is the variety of people who come here from across the country and the world.

Given we do not have the right to self-determination, laws our elected Councilmembers pass are subject to Congressional review. Congress dictates how we can spend some of our federal dollars.

As a little girl, I dreamed of serving in the House or the Senate. Little girls born and raised in Washington, DC must leave the city if they want to serve in Congress.

Please consider voting “yes” on SCR4009 so that the 700,000 Americans who live in Washington and pay federal taxes can have full democratic representation.

DC residents have served in every war. Currently, more than 8,000 DC residents serve in the US military — yet we have no say in whether our country goes to war. Our mayor does not have the authority to call up the Washington National Guard.

Statehood for DC is the only solution to these challenges. Correcting DC’s lack of representation is an issue of justice. As a DC resident, I encourage you to show your solidarity with us by voting “yes” on SCR 4009.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and for the opportunity to submit testimony on this resolution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celeste Garcia', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Celeste Garcia