

2025 SENATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

SCR 4009

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Workforce Development Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SCR 4009
2/20/2025

A concurrent resolution urging Congress to support admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States.

10:01 a.m. Chairman Wobbema opened the hearing.

Members Present: Chairman Wobbema, Vice-Chairman Axtman, Senator Boschee, Senator Larson, Senator Powers

Discussion Topics:

- History regarding Washington D.C. statehood

10:05 a.m. Senator Mathern, District 11, introduced SCR 4009 and testified in favor.

10:11 a.m. Chairman Wobbema closed the hearing.

10:12 a.m. Senator Powers moved a Do Not Pass.

10:12 a.m. Senator Axtman seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Mike Wobbema	Y
Senator Michelle Axtman	Y
Senator Josh Boschee	N
Senator Diane Larson	Y
Senator Michelle Powers	Y

Motion passed 4-1-0

Chairman Wobbema will carry the bill.

Additional written testimony:

#37766, #37946, #37993, #38070, #38077, #38081, #38087, #38093, #38095, #38104, #38105, #38113, #38114, #38115, #38117, #38119, #38120, #38121, #38122, #38123, #38124, #38125, #38126, #38127, #38131, #38132, #38133, #38134, #38136, #38140, #38141, #38142, #38143, #38145, #38148, #38151, #38152, #38157, #38158

10:13 a.m. Chairman Wobbema closed the hearing.

Andrew Ficek, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SCR 4009 ([25.3029.02000](#))

Workforce Development Committee (Sen. Wobbema, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (4 YEAS, 1 NAY, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SCR 4009 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar. This resolution does not affect workforce development.

WARD 3 DEMOCRATS

February 15, 2025

PO Box 40114
Washington, DC 20016-0114

North Dakota Legislative Council
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: Support for SCR-4009 – Urging Congress to Admit Washington, D.C. as a State

Dear North Dakota Legislative Council:

On behalf of the Ward 3 Democrats located in the District of Columbia, I am writing to express our strong support for SCR-4009, a concurrent resolution urging Congress to support the admission of Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state. We urge you and your colleagues to vote in favor of this important resolution, which affirms the fundamental principles of democracy and representation for all American citizens.

More than 700,000 residents of Washington, D.C. contribute to our nation's economy, serve in our military, and uphold the responsibilities of citizenship, yet they remain without voting representation in Congress. This lack of representation contradicts the founding ideals of our democracy, where taxation without representation was a driving force behind the American Revolution. Despite paying federal taxes, D.C. residents have no voting members in either the House of Representatives or the Senate.

Statehood for Washington, D.C. is a matter of fairness, justice, and equal representation. The district's population exceeds that of some states, and its residents deserve the same rights and privileges as their fellow Americans. By supporting this resolution, North Dakota joins a growing movement that recognizes the necessity of full political representation for all citizens, regardless of where they reside.

We urge the North Dakota Legislature to pass this resolution and send a clear message to Congress that the time for D.C. statehood is now. We appreciate your leadership and consideration of this critical issue. Please feel free to contact us at ward3democrats@gmail.com we can provide further information or assistance in advancing this resolution.

Sincerely,



Deirdre P. Brown, J.D., Chair
Ward 3 Democrats



**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.

Carol Sawicki
LWVND Board Member
nodaklwv@gmail.com

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](#)

Anne Stauffer
3212 18th Street NW, Washington DC 20010

Written testimony submitted to the
Senate Workforce Development Committee

February 20, 2025

Dear Committee members:

I write in profound gratitude that you are considering this resolution supporting DC statehood which would give your fellow Americans who live in DC their full rights as citizens.

As you know, I and my nearly 700,000 neighbors have all the responsibilities of American citizens - paying federal taxes, serving on juries and in the military - yet have no voting representation in Congress and therefore no say on national legislation that affects us. The very definition of taxation with representation and contrary to the values this country is founded on.

Thank you for also opposing efforts to interfere with our home rule. As your resolution recognizes, Congress – in which we have no voting representation - can overturn our laws and direct how our own taxes are spent contrary to our needs and values. This profoundly undermines our country's principle of self-governance.

We came here for many reasons: some already lived here when DC was created (and before 37 other states were admitted to the union); many to escape slavery, others to serve our government; others for private sector jobs. My parents lived and died here, my sister lives here, my nephew was born here.

As you know, we have a plan to preserve the federal district as required in the Constitution, while making the residential and commercial part of DC into a state. We want the same rights all other Americans enjoy: control over our local government and a say in Congress. Thank you so much for supporting us.

Create a more perfect union!

D.C. STATEHOOD

*for 700,000
people who live here*

DC League of Women Voters
www.lwvdc.org



*and a Federal
District for the
U.S. Capital*

19 February 2025

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 Queen Adesuyi and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I also am a partner at Reframe Health and Justice. I also am an organizer and member of [Free DC](#). I am originally from New York City (the Bronx), but moved to D.C. to attend Georgetown University in 2012, and I have called D.C. home since. I live in the beautiful, historic Anacostia neighborhood in D.C., which is in the great Ward 8.

I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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 are 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,

Queen Adesuyi
Washington DC Resident

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 Reva Schwartz and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I have lived in DC since 1997 and currently live in the Petworth neighborhood with my husband, daughter, and our two cats. I was a proud federal employee for 20 years but have recently opened my own business working in the field of AI research. My husband is still a federal employee.

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.

As a DC resident, any time that something happens in national politics I have had to rely on my family members who live in Ohio and New York to voice their support or opposition to whatever the matter happens to be. Since my family lives in those places they have one representative and two Senators they can call or write to. But, as a resident of this wonderful city I do not have those rights. While I can reach out to Delegate Holmes-Norton, she is not afforded the privilege of representing the more than 700,000 DC residents in our Congress. We are American citizens, we pay taxes, we build up our families, we serve our community and this country. **Having no voice in our national representation is in direct opposition with the democratic ideals this nation was founded on.**

It goes further than our lack of representation. **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 are at constant risk of interference from members of Congress who we did not elect and have no connection to our beloved city. This is an immediate danger to our communities and one which can only be permanently addressed through statehood.

DC residents also **pay the [highest federal taxes per capita](#) compared to any other state** — yet we have no say in how the federal budget is spent.

I am urging you to **vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.**

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,
Reva Schwartz
Washington, DC

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 KT Beckman-Götrich and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.

I fell in love with the city and moved here to be closer to my partner and job opportunities. I've lived here since 2013 and we now own a small home in North Michigan Park, a quiet neighborhood near the Maryland on our east border. We have a regular life with our child at our neighborhood public school, my dad enjoying his twilight years with us, two white collar jobs, and a puppy to boot. Like every other American family, we work hard and deserve to be represented by Congress with voting members. Since my husband and I moved here we have been disenfranchised and see the effects doubly harming Native Washingtonians as multiple generations have fought tooth and nail for basic home rule.

Please join other states and lawmakers in support of our autonomy and voting rights. Please vote "yes" on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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 are at constant risk of interference from members of Congress who we did not elect. This is an immediate danger to MY community and one which can only be permanently addressed through statehood.

Our capital city is not just beautiful landmarks, we 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,
KT Beckman-Götrich
Washington DC

To the North Dakota Legislative Assembly:

Thank you for the chance 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 of America.

My name is Andrew DeFrank and I am proud to have always been, and will always be, a Washingtonian.

I grew up on South Carolina Avenue, a residential street in Southeast DC. I loved my neighborhood — I played Little League baseball, drove to football games with my dad, and took the metro across town once I was old enough. Now, I live in Dupont Circle, a neighborhood in Northwest DC, and am saving up to buy a home and hopefully raise my own children in the city.

My dad, a U.S. Army veteran, moved to Washington, DC in the 1970s for many of the same reasons people move anywhere else — economic opportunity, quality of life for his children, and finding passion through work and community. He's a great dad for many reasons, but the thing I'm most grateful for is his decision to raise me in Washington, DC. I love my neighbors, our neighborhood, and the people I've become friends with throughout my life in this city.

The big thing that's missing from my hometown is the fundamental rights virtually all other Americans enjoy — the right to vote and the freedom to be governed by people from your own state.

I am asking you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

About 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 a constant 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 considering this important matter and the opportunity to testify on this incredibly important bill.

Sincerely,

Andrew DeFrank
Washington DC

I am writing to express my support for SCR 4009. Reading the text of this SCR it strikes me that the population of the District of Columbia has no clear guarantee of representation in this country which is amazing given that the District of Columbia is the very seat of our federal government. The 23rd Amendment gave them the right to appoint electors in a presidential contest. The federal House passed the Washington, D.C. Admission Act 2 different times. The voters of D.C. have overwhelmingly supported statehood for themselves and yet Congress, unelected by the voters there, appears to still have control over their judiciary with the power to repeal their laws. I say we should support the voters' efforts at becoming a state and at acquiring the guarantee of their rights as state citizens that we all enjoy. Please support SCR 4009

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 Jayme Epstein and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.

I moved to the District in 1983 to attend law school at the Georgetown University Law Center. I had lived in Northern Virginia for part of my childhood and always dreamed of returning to DC as an adult, both for the opportunity to serve in the government or one of the many public service organizations based in DC and because of the city's numerous parks, including the National Mall, its rich history, and the wonderful (and mostly free!) cultural opportunities, from the Smithsonian Museums, to the National Gallery, to the Kennedy Center, and of course the local cultural community.

DC is made up of many, many neighborhoods, each with their own unique footprint, shops, restaurants, and culture. I currently live in Woodley Park, adjacent to the beautiful nature trails of Rock Creek Park and halfway between the National Zoo and the vibrant community of Adams Morgan, with its numerous restaurants and my two favorite book stores. I live in a rowhouse on a beautiful tree-lined block whose neighbors enjoy gathering for holidays and just chatting on their porches. I can walk a short distance for just about everything I need. And I take advantage of the metrorail and bus system to get almost everywhere in the city I serve as a volunteer, primarily as an adult educator and tutor and as an advocate for District programs and policies that advance and support the interests of our most vulnerable communities.

The *only* thing I miss about living in a state is the right to democratic representation and local governance (without federal interference) that the residents of North Dakota and every other state in the Union enjoy. I am, therefore, urging you to vote yes on SCR 4009 in support of full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

Currently, my neighbors and I 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 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 and who are not knowledgeable about the lives and needs of our community. This is an immediate danger to our communities and one which can only be permanently addressed through statehood.

Correcting DC's lack of representation and autonomy 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 your consideration of this important matter and the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Jayme Epstein

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 Alla Hoffman and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I was born here, grew up here, and now have come back to live in my hometown to be close to my family and friends. I've always loved this city, and wish the rest of America could see it as more than just a symbol of the federal government. These are the parks I played in as a kid and now watch the neighborhood children exploring, the libraries where I learned to read, and all the bits and pieces that make up a city and home. We are community with unique needs and the right to self determination, just like all of our fellow Americans. Yet, due to lack of representation in congress we do not have these basic rights.

I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for me and the 700,000 other people who call DC home.

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.

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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,

Alla Hoffman,
Washington DC



February 19, 2025

The John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite C09
Washington, D.C. 20004

North Dakota Legislative Council
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: Support for SCR-4009 – Urging Congress to Admit Washington, D.C. as a State

Dear North Dakota Legislative Council:

On behalf of District of Columbia residents, as U.S. Senator for the District of Columbia (non-voting), I am writing to express my strong support for SCR-4009, a concurrent resolution urging Congress to support the admission of Washington, D.C., into the Union as a state. I urge you to support and vote in favor of this legislation. D.C. statehood is a matter of great importance to D.C. residents, but also for all citizens of the nation, including those in North Dakota.

D.C. statehood is an issue of ensuring full rights and privileges to all U.S. citizens. It is an issue of striving to live up to the ideals of our founding creed and the Declaration of Independence. D.C. is home to over 700,000 residents who contribute to the well-being of country just as much as residents of any other jurisdiction. D.C. residents serve in the military, serve on juries, are subject to the Selective Service, contribute to the nation's economy, and pay federal taxes. However, D.C. residents do not have the same rights and privileges as citizens of the 50 states, including representation in the U.S. Congress.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR ANKIT JAIN

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(202) 741-5019 • ankit.jain@dc.gov

The phrase “no taxation without representation” is a founding phrase of our country. It is one of the core grievances our Founding Fathers listed in the Declaration of Independence: “For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent.” Nearly 250 years later, it is still valid for residents of D.C. Washingtonians pay more federal taxes per capita than *any* state in the nation and pay more in total taxes than 19 other states. Yet D.C. residents have no voting representation in the House of Representatives or Senate who have a say in how this tax money is spent.

D.C. statehood is not only an abstract concern of democracy; it has real consequences that impact the lives of D.C. residents. The most tangible of these is D.C.’s crime rate. In the District, the two most prominent forces in the criminal justice system answer to different executives. The Metropolitan Police Department answers to the D.C. Mayor, and the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia answers to the President of the United States. This results in poor coordination between the offices. In addition, all judges for the District must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate. These judges are usually the last priority for the Senate, and the result is many vacancies, causing trials to take longer to complete in D.C. than in any other jurisdiction in the country. This system means that many criminals believe they are unlikely to be prosecuted and, therefore, are more brazen in committing crimes in the District, leading to higher crime rates. When we become a state, D.C. can take control of this system and fix the inefficiencies to reduce the crime rate and improve the lives of residents.

Since D.C. is not a state, Congress can also impose any requirement it wants on D.C. This hinders the District's autonomy and creates serious safety concerns for residents. For example, in 2014 Congress prevented the implementation of a local ballot measure that legalized the sale and use of marijuana, by using the federal budget to veto the provision allowing for the sale of marijuana but not touching the provision dealing with its use. This congressional action has led to an unregulated gray market of marijuana “gifting” shops in which customers are “gifted” marijuana after buying another item. The lack of regulation creates safety concerns as customers cannot be sure what product they will receive after purchasing it. The Metropolitan Police Department has found multiple “gifting” shops which have laced cannabis with amphetamines.¹ In addition, marijuana cannot be taxed and is instead treated as a free

¹ Segaves, Mark. “Cannabis Laced with Amphetamines Found at Illegal DC Shops amid Crackdown.” NBC4 Washington, NBC4 Washington, 26 Sept. 2024, www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/as-dc-shuts-down-illegal-cannabis-shops-police-say-some-sold-other-illegal-drugs/3726922/.

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commodity. Therefore, the District government loses millions of dollars that could come from taxing sales.

Statehood for D.C. is not only something that benefits the residents of D.C. It benefits residents of all states, as it would improve the image of the United States in the world. The United States is the only representative democracy in the world that does not give voting representation in the national legislature to citizens of its capital city. Instead, citizens in D.C. are treated more like second-class citizens or citizens of a colony. Residents of D.C. bear the responsibilities of citizenship but do not get to enjoy the rights and privileges of citizenship. D.C. residents have no voting representation in either house of Congress. D.C. does have a local government, but Congress gets to dictate every law that the local government passes. And, most egregiously, on a whim, Congress has the power to remove the local government altogether. DC residents deserve the same representation as any American.

D.C. Statehood is also not a partisan issue. Across the history of the United States, both Democratic and Republican lawmakers have endorsed and advocated for statehood and voting representation for D.C. residents. Republican Delegate William Corlett of Wyoming introduced the first-ever congressional joint resolution (H.R. 57) to give D.C. voting representation in the House of Representatives.² 70 years later, in 1960, Republican Senator Kenneth Keating of New York introduced what became the 23rd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave D.C. residents the right to vote for President. In 1973, Republican President Richard Nixon signed the District Home Rule Act into law, creating the local government that D.C. has today. In addition, the Republican Party Platform of 1960, 1968, 1972, and 1976 included support for congressional representation for D.C. residents. Finally, many notable Republican lawmakers and officials have supported Congressional voting representation for D.C., including President Dwight Eisenhower, President Richard Nixon, Vice President Mike Pence, Senator Bob Dole (1996 Republican Presidential nominee), Representative Jack Kemp (1996 Republican Vice Presidential nominee), Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), and Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist.

² "Congressional Record." Congress.gov, Library of Congress, 27 Nov. 1877, <https://www.congress.gov/bound-congressional-record/1877/11/27/6/house-section/article/714-728>.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR ANKIT JAIN

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I am urging the North Dakota Legislature to pass this resolution. It is time to make it clear that North Dakota agrees that D.C. residents deserve to enjoy the same rights and privileges that all American citizens share. D.C. residents deserve to have voting representation in Congress and autonomy over their own laws and agencies.

I would like to thank Senators Mather and Braunberger for introducing this resolution and leading the charge to gather support for D.C. statehood in North Dakota. Please reach out to my office for any further questions and assistance in support of SRC-4009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ankit Jain', with a stylized, cursive script.

Ankit Jain

U.S. Senator for the District of Columbia

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES SENATOR ANKIT JAIN

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Honorable Members of the North Dakota Legislature:

I am a resident of Washington D.C. and I love my hometown, but sadly, we do not have all of the rights we deserve due to living in this 'territory'. I am therefore urging you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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 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.

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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,

Anita Beier
Washington DC

WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
TO SCR 4009

Date of Hearing: January 20, 2025

Denise Ann Dykeman 1840 12th St SW, Minot, ND 58701

Committee chair and members of the committee, my name is Denise Ann Dykeman. I am a resident of Minot, North Dakota, and practicing attorney. I am here in support of SCR 4009. I support this bill because it provides representation and a voice in Congress to taxpaying citizens of the United States who live in Washington, DC like everyone else.

Before I moved to North Dakota in 2021, I lived in Washington, DC. Before that, I lived in Kansas and Indiana. It was frustrating to go from living in states where I could contact my representatives with my concerns to DC where the only person I could contact was Eleanor Holmes Norton, and while she is very lovely and smart, she is a Delegate to United States House of Representatives and doesn't have a vote!

I felt it was unfair that I was still a taxpaying citizen but no longer had representation in Congress just because I lived in DC. The DC license plates say "taxation without representation" and that's exactly right and totally un-American.

Now that I'm in ND, I live in a state with almost the same population as DC and but the state of North Dakota has two senators in the United States Senate and one at-large representative in the United States House of Representatives.

As of July 2024:

Washington, D.C. had a population of 702,250
North Dakota had a population of 796,568.

DC resident: 0 reps
ND resident: 3 reps

I don't think it's fair. Every citizen should have a voice in Congress.

Please support SCR 4009

Respectfully,

Denise A. Dykeman
1840 12th St SW
Minot, ND 58701

2.19.2025

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 Julia Farber and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.

I have lived in the District of Columbia for a total of 14 years. I currently own my own home in the Van Ness neighborhood. I work in sustainability for a global manufacturing company. I am originally from Michigan, and I relocated to DC for work opportunities in 2009.

DC is a wonderful place to live showcasing the best that this country has to offer: we have world class museums, excellent restaurants, fantastic neighborhoods and so much more. My friends are teachers, restaurant owners, doctors, engineers, nurses, researchers, government workers, and national security experts. The only thing we are missing is full participation in our democracy. I have personally relocated to the city a few times due to work transfers in and out. I can tell you each time I move back, despite my love for the city, and all it offers, it is hard to give up the rights and representation of the other places that I have lived.

This is also what happens to North Dakotans who move to the District to support your representatives, or to work for non profits, or to move around in their own careers. As there are no tax-exempt places in this nation, it is vital that citizens of the United State of America are universally afforded access to representation.

I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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,

Julia Farber
Washington DC

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 Ann DeWig and I am a united states citizen and proud resident of Washington, DC. I have lived in the Capital Hill neighborhood of DC for 6 years. I was born and raised in Colorado, and lived and worked in Iowa, Texas, Maryland, and Arizona – all where I enjoyed full representation and rights. But when I moved to DC for work, I lost all those rights. I own a small production company and work with over 400 clients all across the country, all of whom have more rights than I do. Residents of Washington, D.C. also pay the highest federal taxes per capita, an average of 17.40%. That's a rate more than 60% higher than the average federal taxes paid by residents of North Dakota —yet we have no say in how the federal budget is spent.

I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who PROUDLY call DC home.

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. Moreso, your representatives should be representing North Dakota, not bogged down with managing the city of Washington DC.

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann DeWig". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ann" and last name "DeWig" clearly distinguishable.

Ann DeWig
Washington DC

Good morning,

My name is Rev. Wendy Hamilton and I write to you on this day in full support of this legislation to give voice and representation in Congress to the 700,000 God loving, hard working, tax paying residents of Washington DC, where I make my home.

I am a mother, a grandmother, an ordained minister and a local neighborhood advisory commissioner. I work full-time in our public school system with middle school students and their families as well as serve on a few community boards of non profit organizations city wide.

I preach most Sundays and enjoy downtime to take in a concert or a play or just hangout with my grandson. I enjoy taking advantage of all the beautiful parks, walking paths and rec center programs DC offers as well as indulge in some of the cultural cuisine options unique to our city.

I am a living, breathing example of the Washington DC most don't know about or talk about.

When people or pundits mention Washington, they mostly focus on what happens on Capitol Hill, over on Pennsylvania Ave. or at the Supreme Court and while that's expected, as we are the Nation's Capitol, but what gets overlooked are the actual DC residents like me, who are living our lives, taking care of our families, going to work everyday and paying taxes like every other American and yet we have no one to speak for us in our own backyard. Something about that feels very un-American to me.

I write today to simply ask that you think of us, your fellow Americans, as you consider this legislation. We're not asking for anything unprecedented. We're not asking for anything unusual. We just want to have our voices, our thoughts, our concerns, and our issues fully represented in the House and the Senate like every other State in the Union.

DC Statehood is not just a slogan, a hashtag or a politically charged phrase. It encompasses the hearts, the minds, the values, the hopes and the dream of a population that has gone without a voice for far too long. You have an opportunity today to help us be made whole, it is my prayer that you would be so inclined to vote yes on this legislation.

Thank you all for your time and consideration!

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 Elyte Baykun and I am a resident of Washington, DC. For over 12 years I have been a proud federal employee working hard to serve my country. Yet, when I moved to DC for my work, I lost my rights to representation. This is why **I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009** and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who live in DC.

Approximately the same number of people live in DC as live in North Dakota, but 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 whom 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,

Elyte Baykun

Washington DC

When I was a child in New Jersey my grandmother was an election worker. I was so proud to see her in my elementary school on election day when my parents took me with them when they voted.

When I came of age, I voted in New Jersey. When I moved to Pennsylvania for a great job, I voted there. When I moved to Upstate New York for an even better job, I voted there for over 22 years.

When I moved to Washington in 1999, I lost my right to vote for meaningful representation in Congress. For 25 years I have been among the 700, 000 citizens of Washington DC without the right.

I love living in Washington. It is a beautiful town. Come visit us. But remember, if you or your child or grandchild moves here, you forfeit representation and the right to vote.

Please vote to pass the Resolution Supporting DC Statehood.

Thank you.

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SCR 4009, a resolution urging Congress to admit Washington, DC as a state.

My name is Mark Reichard. I have lived in the Kalorama neighborhood of DC for 16 years with my wife and son. I am an IT contractor for the FAA, working on systems that prevent plane crashes by keeping drones away from airports.

I urge you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009 to support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who live in DC. DC has about the same population as North Dakota, yet we have no voting representation in Congress.

I work for a veteran-owned small business, and 30% of my coworkers are veterans. DC residents have served in every war, and [more than 8,000 currently serve in the U.S. military](#)—yet we have no say in whether our country goes to war. DC residents pay federal taxes, but we have no representation in decisions on how those taxes are spent.

Many people assume that DC residents move here for federal jobs, justifying taxation without representation. In reality, [fewer than 1/3 of DC residents work for the federal government](#). Most are teachers, firefighters, or bus drivers. About one-third of DC adults were born here and have lived their entire lives without the right to vote for members of Congress.

Beyond this, DC residents face the constant risk of losing even the limited self-governance we have. Congress can override our local government at any time, threatening control over schools, healthcare, senior services, and other key programs. Without statehood, our communities remain vulnerable to federal interference from politicians we did not elect.

One of the justifications used for the threat of removing home rule is the rate of violent crime in DC. **However, [violent crime in DC hit a 30 year low in 2024](#), giving us a per capita rate of violent crime lower than Tennessee, Alaska, Louisiana, and Arkansas.** And yet, no one is talking about eliminating democratic representation in those states.

Statehood is the only permanent solution. Giving DC residents full representation strengthens democracy for everyone, including North Dakota communities. This is an issue of justice, and I urge you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Reichard

Washington, DC

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 Kimberley Jutze, and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I have lived in Washington, DC for over 30 years and am a resident of the Glover Park neighborhood in Ward 3. I moved to DC shortly after graduating college and have since made it my home. I am the owner of a small business that provides organization development consulting services to nonprofits and socially responsible businesses.

I am urging you to vote YES on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

Approximately the same number of people live in DC as live in North Dakota. Yet, unlike the Peace Garden, we have no voting representatives in Congress. This means that 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, affordable housing, senior services, and other key programs is at constant risk of interference from members of Congress who we did not elect and are unfamiliar with who we are and our issues because they do not live here. This is an immediate danger to our communities and one which can only be permanently addressed through statehood.

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. DC license plates, which read: Taxation Without Representation, are a daily reminder of our status as citizens who lack full representation, despite our contributions to the federal budget.

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 important bill.

Sincerely,
Kimberley Jutze
Washington, DC

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 Katie Murphy, and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.

I have lived in the city for 9 years total - 3 years when my father was serving in the Air Force, and now 6 years since I purchased a home with my partner along the Anacostia River. I live in a diverse residential neighborhood of about 1000 households, and we have an active community organization, garden club, and more. I keep bees on my rooftop. I have a dog. I am a modern dancer and perform with local dance and theater groups. We're very much the same except every time I hear someone say, "Call your representatives in Congress!" I'm reminded that I have no one to call to stand up for my rights.

I am urging you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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,
Katie Murphy
Washington, DC

Dear Members
of the North
Dakota
Legislative
Assembly:

**My name is
Justin and I am
a proud resident
of Washington,
DC and indeed,
the United
States.** Sadly, I
do not enjoy the
same luxury of
representation
as nearly all my
fellow
countrymen do.

**I am urging you
to vote "yes" on
SCR 4009** and
support full
democratic
representation
for the 700,000
people who call
DC home.

**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. Seems pretty unfair, no?

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.

Sincerely,

Justin Hay,
Washington DC

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 KAREN AMY. I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.

- *I LIVED IN THE DISTRICT FOR 8 YEARS DURING THE '70S-'80S. AFTER MOVING AWAY FOR EMPLOYMENT REASONS AND THEN RETIRING, I WAS ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO DC AND FINALLY DID 8 YEARS AGO. THIS IS HOME.*
- *I LIVE ON CAPITOL HILL WITHIN BLOCKS OF THE CAPITOL BUILDING.*
- *MY HUSBAND AND I ENJOY ALL THAT THIS BEAUTIFUL, VIBRANT CITY HAS TO OFFER, WHICH IS A GREAT DEAL. WHAT IT DOES NOT OFFER, HOWEVER, IS SELF-GOVERNANCE AND REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS. I HOPE THAT THE CITIZENS OF NORTH DAKOTA, WHO ARE FULLY REPRESENTED IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, CAN RECOGNIZE THE UNCONSTITUTIONALITY OF DENYING 700,000+ OF THEIR FELLOW AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO LIVE IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL - WHO PAY TAXES, SERVE THEIR COUNTRY, AND DO ALL THE OTHER THINGS THAT THE CITIZENS OF NORTH DAKOTA, INDEED, OF THE ENTIRE UNITED STATES, DO - THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.*
- **I am urging you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009** and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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 who have only self-serving interests in interfering with our self-governance. 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,

Karen Amy

Washington DC

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 Jessica Steele and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.

I live in Eckington, where I help install native pollinator gardens with a local group called DC Natives. We take pride in restoring green spaces in our city.

I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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,

Jessica Steele,
Washington DC

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 Christopher Szczypinski and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC.

I have lived in the Capitol Hill neighborhood of Washington DC for 5 years in a condominium with my partner and my pug. I work in town (not in politics!) selling plush toys for a small business owned by a husband and wife.

We enjoy living in the neighborhood and meeting up with other pug owners and sharing a good meal with friends. I love living in DC because it's a small "big" city where you know your neighbors and look out for one another, like a big family. We are much more than the center of American government. My neighbors are plumbers and teachers, social workers and chefs, and customer service managers for toy companies too ;)

I am urging you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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,

Christopher Szczypinski
Washington DC

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

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

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

Testimony

My name is Bernice I. Corman, and I am a proud, 30-year resident of Washington, D.C.

I live in Ward 2, in the Logan Circle area, which is now also known as the 14th Street Corridor, a vibrant neighborhood filled with restaurants and old automotive showrooms turned into lofts, with an arts overlay.

I am the Managing Partner of my own law firm, which is a DC-certified Business Enterprise. I am a former employee of the DC Government, and still represent DC in an outside council capacity on environmental and clean energy matters. I am also a former (24-year) employee of the federal government.

I believe the District's environment – i.e., the environment in the nation's capital -- would be much improved if DC had a stronger position viz. our neighbors as well as the federal government, which occupies a significant amount of DC, but doesn't pay taxes as would any DC business. Our strength is compromised because of our inferior stature.

I am urging you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bernice I. Corman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bernice I. Corman

North Dakota SCR 4009 - Andria Thomas

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 Andria Thomas and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I am urging you to vote "yes" on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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.

I live in Washington DC for the same reason many of us choose to live someplace. DC is close to my family and my husband's family. It is convenient to work. We have great neighbors, good schools, nearby parks, and wonderful community and culture. But what we don't have are the same American rights enjoyed by Americans living outside of DC. We don't have a vote in Congress. In fact, we just don't lack that vote in the House or those two votes in the Senate that residents of all states are guaranteed; our uniquely unequal status means we don't have full control over our local laws, or our criminal justice system, or even our ability to earn revenue to pay for the parks and schools and roads that our families need. We live in a fundamentally unequal system. All 700,000 of us.

It's very hard to explain this system to my daughters. My 12 year-old, Maggie, learns about American history in school, and the American flag, and the three branches of government in school. But questions like "Who are our Senators?" or "Which star on the flag is for DC?" always prompt the same difficult followup question: Why? How do you tell two little girls born as Americans in a hospital not far from the White House that their rights are not the rights of other Americans? That the US Capitol building they pass on the way to a field trip does not include any representatives who vote for their rights? That they are two of the 100,000 children living in DC who will have to one day choose: to live where they were born and where their families live, or to move away and to an unfamiliar state where they can be equal after all. That's not a choice that any other Americans have to face.

I support DC statehood because my daughters shouldn't have to choose between where they were born and their rights as Americans. They deserve full participation in our government and full representation in our US Congress. Just as my husband and I deserve full representation for the federal taxes we pay annually; in fact, DC residents pay the highest per-capita income taxes in the United States.

Taxation without representation wasn't right during the American Revolution, and now, more than 250 years later, it's not right today for DC. Please support DC statehood for all the DC

North Dakota SCR 4009 - Andria Thomas

families and children who deserve the American rights that everybody in North Dakota already enjoys. Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter and the opportunity to testify on this incredibly important bill.

Sincerely,

Andria Thomas

Washington DC

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 Elissa Parker and I'm a proud resident of Washington DC. I've lived in DC since 1983. I'm 78 years old and currently living with my husband in an area near the National Zoo, called Mt. Pleasant. I'm a retired environmental attorney. My husband is a prominent anti-poverty advocate. We are active in the community and recently set up a Blessing Box to encourage people to leave what they can and take what they need. My neighbors work hard to help other members of our community.

I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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.

With deep gratitude and in hope,
Elissa Parker

February 19, 2025

Dear Members of the North Dakota State Legislature,

I am Martin White, a resident of the District of Columbia. I was born here 75 years ago, and mostly lived here after also living in Texas, New York, and other places. My wife lived in Bismarck for a while in her twenties and has told me about her time there and introduced me to friends she met.

I urge you to support SCR 4009, the resolution urging Congress to admit the District of Columbia as a state of the United States. A fundamental principle of our country is that government works best when people can elect the members of the legislature and the chief executive, like people in North Dakota and other states. DC residents pay federal taxes and are subject to federal law just like citizens of North Dakota, Texas, and other states and should play a similar role in choosing our elected representatives.

Thank you for considering my views.

Martin White

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 Allegra Hatem and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I was born and raised in DC, attended DC schools through my senior year of high school, and chose to return to the city immediately after college in order to be close to my family. I currently work in the city as a tour guide. I am fortunate to have parents, cousins, and friends who all call DC home. As anybody would, I care deeply about my home and my loved ones who share it with me.

It is for those reasons that **I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009** and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 Americans who live in DC.

Approximately the same number of people live in DC as live in North Dakota, but lack the same voting representation 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.

Additionally, **our local government is 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 whom we did not elect and who are not accountable to us.

As someone who has never set foot in North Dakota, it would be absurd for me to have any power to interfere in North Dakota's local laws and budget. Your constituents would be furious (and rightfully so) if they were stripped of their right to self-determination or their voice in the federal government. As a DC resident, I urge you to support extending the same rights to us that are enjoyed by your constituents—the same rights our country's founding fathers enshrined as the cornerstone of our democracy and for which thousands of American patriots gave their lives 250 years ago.

DC residents have served in every American 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. It brings me joy to know that there are North Dakotans who care enough about upholding the values of democracy to bring this resolution before your legislature. I encourage you to do the same by voting “yes” on SCR 4009.

Thank you for consideration of this important matter and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Allegra Hatem
Washington, DC

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

Vonetta Dumas Jennings
1274 Holbrook Terr. NE
Washington, DC 20002
vonetta1274@gmail.com

February 20, 2025

The Honorable Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly
North Dakota State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505

Subject: In Support of SCR 4009 – Upholding Democracy and Representation for Washington, D.C.

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SCR 4009, a resolution urging Congress to grant Washington, D.C. full statehood and equal representation in our democracy.

My name is Vonetta Dumas Jennings, and I am a proud resident of Washington, D.C. Since 2011, I have called the Trinidad neighborhood in Northeast D.C. my home. Purchasing my home was one of the most significant and fulfilling decisions of my life—it has provided me with stability, a strong sense of community, and a place where I have been able to uplift not only myself but my loved ones as well. My home has been a safe haven for friends and my mother. And when I married, my husband—who moved from out of state—chose to make D.C. our permanent home because of its proximity to both of our workplaces and the business that I own and operate in the District.

Beyond being a business owner, homeowner, and engaged citizen, I also served as a Commissioner in my community, where I worked tirelessly to improve the lives of my fellow residents. During my tenure, I championed crime reduction initiatives, supported measures to address blighted properties, and pushed for responsible development that preserved the character of our community. One of my proudest achievements was advocating for a neighborhood security camera program, which later became a citywide reimbursement initiative that helps keep our communities safe.

Despite my deep investment in my city, I—and nearly 700,000 other residents of Washington, D.C.—have no voting representation in Congress.

Approximately the same number of people live in Washington, D.C. as in North Dakota. Yet, unlike the people of the Peace Garden State, we have no voting representatives in Congress. This means we have no say in federal laws, policies, and programs that directly impact our lives—and no elected officials to champion our interests in debates over national priorities.

Additionally, our local government remains uniquely vulnerable to interference from federal lawmakers who neither live here nor were elected by our people. Without statehood, Washington, D.C.'s ability to make independent decisions on critical issues such as education, healthcare, senior services, and public safety is constantly at risk. No other jurisdiction in the United States is subject to such undemocratic oversight.

Moreover:

D.C. residents have served in every war in U.S. history, and today, more than 8,000 D.C. residents serve in the U.S. military—yet we have no voice in Congress when decisions are made about war and peace.

D.C. residents pay the highest federal taxes per capita compared to any other state—yet we have no say in how our tax dollars are spent.

D.C. statehood is the only solution to this injustice. Statehood would not only strengthen democracy for Washington, D.C., but for the nation as a whole. The right to full representation and self-governance should not be dictated by geography.

I urge you to stand on the right side of history and vote “YES” on SCR 4009. By supporting this resolution, you affirm a simple but fundamental truth: every American, regardless of where they live, deserves a voice in their government.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Vonetta Dumas Jennings

Washington, D.C.

Dear Members of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly:

My name is Athena Viscusi. I am a social worker, homeowner, and taxpayer living in Washington DC. My two children and three grandchildren were born and grew up here.

I am writing **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.

Maybe Washington DC and North Dakota do not have much in common on the surface. But when you look closer, you can see the similarities: we are both have under a million residents, who are all Americans, who serve in the military, who attend public schools, who love our sports teams, and who pay taxes. The only difference is that the North Dakotans are represented in the United States congress by two Senators and a Member of Congress and residents of DC have **taxation without representation**.

No representation means we have no say in federal laws, policies, and programs, and no one to champion our interests in debates over national priorities. Ironically, your Congressional delegation has more say than we do over how DC tax revenue is spent, and over what laws can be enacted by our city government.

Without statehood, DC's power over issues like our public safety, 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.

Perhaps some of you have visited Washington DC and seen what a beautiful, vibrant place it is. We host our national government and tourists from all over the country and the world, but at heart we are a collection of neighborhoods, like any city.

Thank you so much for considering this important matter and for giving me the opportunity to testify on this incredibly important bill.

I am urging you to vote “yes” on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

Sincerely,

Ayjena Viscusi

Washington DC

Peter Lynch
Washington D.C.
2/20/2025

In Support of the concurrent resolution urging Congress to support admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States.

Hello good people of North Dakota and state representatives,

I was born and raised in Washington D.C. It is home to me and I care about it deeply. Last year I served my first term as a local representative serving around 2,000 residents. During the day I am a high school English teacher.

Unfortunately, without statehood, laws enacted by our city Council can be rejected, changed, or meddled with by Congressional representatives that have no connection to us. These neighbors are friends, family, and the folks who make up the community we all call home. They are service members, veterans, teachers, nurses, doctors, mechanics, hospitality workers, faith leaders, businessmen and more; but not one of them has a say in the direction of this country through the laws enacted in Congress. Without Statehood we have no voice.

We are not asking for anything extra or any special treatment. Our call is the same as the Colonial patriots of 1776—"no taxation without representation." We are fine with being taxed and paying our fair share. We actually pay more federal taxes per capita than any state and more federal taxes overall than 19 states. We bear all the responsibilities of citizenship, and gladly so, but receive none of the benefits without statehood.

My nieces are 5th generation Washhingtonians, this is their home, and I hope they are the last generation that goes without full American citizenship. We hope you will support our effort to become the 51st State and look forward to the day when we can join the people of North Dakota in making our Union a more perfect place. Thank you for your consideration.

Peter Lynch

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 Will Grinnell and I am a proud resident of Washington, DC. I've lived in and around DC for around 8 years - I went to college here, then moved from Fort Totten, to Petworth, to Takoma, and now to Bloomingdale. I work at a non-profit to get trees planted on agricultural property throughout the DMV area in an effort to stem the tide of agricultural runoff. I do this because I care about the green spaces in our capital, and want everyone to be able to enjoy them the way I have.

I am urging you to vote **“yes”** on SCR 4009 and support full democratic representation for the 700,000 people who call DC home.

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 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,

Will Grinnell

Washington DC



UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE OYE OWOLEWA
WRITTEN TESTIMONY
before the
NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Senate Workforce Development Public Hearing
February 20, 2025

SCR 4009: A concurrent resolution urging Congress to support admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States.

As the United States Representative in Washington, D.C., I serve as a chief legislative lobbyist in support of D.C. statehood – inside the District of Columbia, across the United States of America, as well as around the world.

Our fight for D.C. statehood is the greatest example of voter suppression in the United States of America. D.C. residents pay federal taxes without having any voting representation in either the United States House of Representatives or the United States Senate.

Nearly 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia have absolutely no say on important matters such as the appointment of U.S. Supreme Court Justices, federal tax cuts or increases, impeachment hearings and votes, and involvement in wars – to name just a few.

We lack full control over our own resources. We lose out on federal monies and programs that residents of the 50 states receive. Congressional review periods on Capitol Hill ensure that we do not have the final word on annual budgets assembled by D.C.'s Mayor and the laws created by members of the Council of the District of Columbia. Our criminal justice system is completely controlled by the federal government. Our mayor is not permitted to act as the commander-in-chief of our National Guard. We lack full autonomy. Each and every day, we have to mitigate what we lose in D.C. by not being the 51st state in the Union.

The lack of D.C. statehood impacts Education and Youth Services, the Environment, Healthcare, Human Rights, and Public Safety in the District of Columbia. As the U.S. Representative, I address these matters as focal points along with my official duties.

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE OYE OWOLEWA

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Education and Youth Services

I have collaborated with RESET, which places volunteer engineers, mathematicians, scientists, and technicians in elementary school classrooms and pre-Kindergarten centers in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. This program leads children to hands-on STEM learning. RESET'S goal is to get children excited about STEM and to consider education and career pathways in related fields. In addition, I have provided free in-classroom science enrichment to elementary students; promoted U.S. State Department internships for high school and college students; collaborated with local sports teams and fitness groups to conduct an annual youth fitness day; created internships for high school and college students to get first-hand experience in my office; and partnered with schools to provide dynamic career days. I also helped organize and participated in the 2021 "March On For Voting Rights" on the 58th anniversary of the 1963 March On Washington when the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have A Dream" speech and served on virtual panels with members of the organization, Students for D.C. Statehood.

Environmental Justice

D.C.'s federal parks often fall between the cracks of the local and federal government. I have participated in wooded area cleanups; spoken with the Office of Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC-06) regarding resources for forest areas in D.C.; helped remove more than 51 pounds of trash in federal parks every month; collaborated with D.C. Voters for Animals - Education Fund to make D.C. a cruelty-free jurisdiction; challenged the National Park Services' decision to shoot deer for population control; and helped to ban all fur sales in D.C.

Healthcare

Because D.C. is not a state, we were denied half of the financial resources from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to fight COVID-19 in 2020. As a licensed pharmacist, I make an impact on the frontlines of healthcare. I created a Healthcare Providers in Policy Coalition to address the latest news and legislation; helped to increase vaccine access for D.C. residents during a shortage; vaccinated more than 10,000 D.C. residents since 2021; participated with Howard University's School of Pharmacy to conduct health fairs; and, alongside Oxford House, passed out and demonstrated the use of hundreds of Narcan.

Human Rights

Without D.C. statehood, we are unable to have a say in today's most pressing human rights issues. D.C. cannot help codify women's reproductive rights and are at risk of federal government overreach into current procedures in D.C. We are unable to vote for the Equality Act. My office has hosted the Equality Panel to discuss the importance of passing laws to protect the LGBTQ+ community. I have also collaborated with Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. and SMYAL (Supporting and Mentoring Youth Advocates and

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Leaders) to write an opinion piece discussing the need to protect gender-affirming care for trans teens. I have worked with the Tenants Advocacy Coalition (TENAC) and local tenant associations to fight displacement and ensure dignity for our senior neighbors. In addition, I am working to increase the political engagement of our African, Caribbean and Latino communities.

Public Safety

D.C. lacks control over our own criminal justice system. Our local judges and prosecutors are all federally appointed. With the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate, the President of the United States nominates and appoints all judges in the District of Columbia courts. Lacking a prison in the District of Columbia, incarcerated D.C. residents are housed all over the country. With assistance from the D.C. Caucus for Returning Citizens, I successfully submitted a resolution to the U.S. Department of Justice to revise COVID-19 compassionate releases to allow released offenders to finish their sentences at home. I have also participated in and moderated four panels for the D.C. Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs and partnered with various organizations to conduct expungement clinics for returning citizens who qualify for record sealing.

Self-determination is the right to representative government with full suffrage. The people's right to form its own political entity in the District of Columbia cannot be fulfilled without the help of the state and local governments in these 50 states.

Following a trip in 2022 to the State Capitol Building in Charleston, I led an effort with Minority Leaders Doug Scaff, Jr. and Sean Hornbuckle to introduce **West Virginia House Concurrent Resolution 86** in support for admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States of America. With an historic resolution, Members of the West Virginia House of Delegates acknowledged the importance of Washington, D.C. becoming the 51st state.

Today, I respectfully request that this legislative body – the NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL – vote in favor of SCR 4009, a concurrent resolution urging Congress to support admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of the United States.

Washingtonians may lack a congressional vote and a seat in our federal government, but we still have our voices. I continue to defend and support D.C.'s fight for statehood, and implore you to do the same. On behalf of my nearly 700,000 constituents in our nation's capital, I hope that you will join us in the fight for D.C. statehood, Senators.

I thank you for your time and your consideration of this most important civil rights matter.

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Oye Owolewa

Dr. Adeoye I. Yakubu Owolewa

United States Representative - District of Columbia

ABOUT ME

Dr. Adeoye I. Yakubu Owolewa was first sworn in on January 2, 2021, as the new United States Representative for the District of Columbia. Born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1989, Representative Owolewa is the first Nigerian-American to serve on the New Columbia Statehood Commission. Rep. Owolewa attended the prestigious Boston Latin School, graduating in 2008. He earned a doctorate degree in pharmacy from Boston's Northeastern University in 2014 and is a licensed pharmacist currently working as a Pharmacy Manager for Safeway. Prior to becoming a U.S. Representative, Dr. Owolewa served one term as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in ANC 8E, representing Single Member District 8E-01. As an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, he worked to increase science enrichment programs in Southeast area elementary schools, added traffic safety measures, and helped bring a Senior Day Center to his neighborhood. He also volunteered at his neighborhood elementary school to encourage students to become more interested in science and mathematics.

ABOUT MY OFFICE

Pursuant to the Code of the District of Columbia (§ 1–123), the duties of a Representative are to inform the Congress and individual members of Congress that the District of Columbia residents meet the standards traditionally required by Congress for the admission of a United States territory as a state of the United States; to monitor the progress of the petition for admission of New Columbia to statehood pending before the Congress and report on the progress to the District of Columbia residents; and to advise the District of Columbia on matters of public policy that bear on the achievement of statehood.

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