

June 24, 2020

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) and the five million federal employees and retirees it represents, I urge you to support H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, when it is considered on the floor on Friday, June 26. This legislation would extend statehood to most of the territory of the current District of Columbia and would ensure that its residents, including tens of thousands of federal employees and annuitants, have the right to self-government and full voting representation in Congress as all other Americans do.

There are more than 141,000 active federal employees working in the District of Columbia, many of whom live there, and more than 44,000 district residents who are federal annuitants. These men and women have served our nation with distinction, yet they are not afforded the same rights and privileges to self-government as the citizens they have served. It's time to correct this blight on America's democracy.

Self-government, including proper representation, is a bedrock principle upon which our nation was founded, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence. That founding document boldly identifies self-government as the guarantor of our unalienable rights – life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness: “That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

Yet, for the past 219 years, American citizens living in the District of Columbia have not had the right to self-government enjoyed by those living in the 50 states. They are instead subjected to congressional overreach, wherein Congress holds the power to amend or deny funding (paid by local taxes) or even overturn laws passed by the local elected government of Washington, D.C.. Even worse, none of the more than 700,000 residents of the district have any voting representation in the very Congress that wields the power to govern them – both locally and nationally.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of the Washington, D.C. Admission Act and correct this longstanding injustice. Thank you for your consideration of our views. If you have any questions or comments, please contact NARFE's Staff Vice President, Policy and Programs Jessica Klement at 571-483-1264 or jklement@narfe.org.

Sincerely,



Ken Thomas
National President