

April 19, 2021

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 am asking you to vote in favor of H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, when it is considered on the floor this week. This legislation would extend statehood to most of the territory of the current District of Columbia, and would ensure that its residents, including more than 100,000 federal employees and annuitants, have the right of self-government and full voting representation in Congress like all other Americans do.

There are 141,955 active federal employees working in the District of Columbia, many of whom live there, and 43,819 District of Columbia residents who are federal annuitants. These men and women have served our nation with distinction, yet are not afforded the same rights and privileges to self-government as the citizens they have served.

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 220 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. None of the more than 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia have any voting representation in the very Congress that holds power to govern them – both locally and nationally.

H.R. 51 corrects a longstanding error in America’s democracy by admitting the District of Columbia to the Union, thereby granting its citizens the ability to control their own local governance, along with two Senators and one Representative in Congress. The new state would exclude certain territory for the purpose of maintaining the seat of the federal government. The federal government would still retain control of its relatively small footprint while granting residents of the newly admitted state the rights that are principle to our country.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote in favor of the Washington, D.C. Admission Act. 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](mailto:jklement@narfe.org).

Sincerely,



Ken Thomas  
National President