

June 25, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi 235 Cannon House Office Building United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy 2421 Rayburn House Office Building United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Cc: All Members of the House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy and all Members of the House:

From the moment the District of Columbia Organic Act became law in 1801, Washingtonians have been denied full participation in their own government. For more than 200 years, the original form of voter suppression has blocked equal access to, and participation in, the representative structures that are the basis of the American ideal.

When white women were finally granted the right to vote in 1920, women in Washington, DC were left behind. When the 15th Amendment to the Constitution sought to enfranchise those who racism kept from participation, people of color in Washington were left behind. When limited home-rule passed in 1973, Congress recognized that injustice existed, but kept power over DC's local budget and laws.

Across America today, people are working to dismantle racist constructs and systems. With a majority Black and brown population, the fight for DC Statehood cannot be separated from the fight for racial justice.

The Congress has the opportunity to make the 706,000 residents of Washington, DC full members of the American story by passing H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admissions Act.

EQUALITY FOR DC 1111 14th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005 DCVote.org



We, the undersigned organizations, stand firmly in support of DC Statehood and urge the Congress to vote in favor of H.R. 51 and reject any Motion to Recommit.

Sincerely,

DC Vote 51 for 51 A Little Piece Of Light AFGE Local 3354 African American Ministers In Action Alabama State Association of Cooperatives Alianza Nacional de Campesinas Alliance for Justice American Ethical Union American Family Voices American Federation of State, County and **Municipal Employees** American Federation of Teachers American Friends Service Committee American Postal Workers Union Anacostia Coordinating Council Bend the Arc Jewish Action Black Farmers and Ranchers New Mexico Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law Brookland Huddle-for-the-Future **Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association** BYP100 DC Campaign for Youth Justice Center for American Progress Center for Disability Rights Center for Environmental Health Center for Popular Democracy CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers **Clean Elections Texas Clean Water Action Coalition of Labor Union Women** Coalition on Human Needs Coalition to Stop Gun Violence **Common Cause**

Communications Workers of America Cottage House Inc., D.C. Statehood - Yes We Can! **DC** Appleseed **DC Democratic State Committee DC Environmental Network** DC League of Women Voters DC Statehood Coalition DC Ward 2 Democrats Death with Dignity National Center Declaration for American Democracy Defending Rights & Dissent **Demand Progress** DemCast USA Democracy 21 **Democracy for America Democracy Initiative** DEMOS **Disability Rights Education & Defense** Fund (DREDF) **Endangered Species Coalition** Faith Strategies Farmworker Association of Florida Food & Friends Food & Water Watch Friends Committee on National Legislation **Futures Without Violence** Green Compass Greenpeace USA Herd on the Hill **Hip Hop Caucus** Human Rights Campaign Indivisible **Indivisible Beach Cities** Indivisible Media City Burbank IndivisibleSF Jews United for Justice

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Justice Policy Institute Lambda Legal The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights League of Conservation Voters League of Women Voters of the United States Let America Vote/End Citizens United Action Fund March For Our Lives Metro DC PFLAG Mississippi Association of Cooperatives NAACP NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC. (LDF) National CAPACD National Coalition for the Homeless National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC) National Council of Jewish Women National Employment Law Project NATIONAL FAIR HOUSING ALLIANCE National Federation of Democratic Women National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund National Partnership for Women & Families NATIONAL TREASURY EMPLOYEES UNION Neighbors United for DC Statehood NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice New Progressive Alliance **NOPE** Neighbors **Our Maryland Our Revolution DC** People For the American Way **PFLAG** National Physicians for Reproductive Health Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington, DC Pride at Work Public Citizen **Public Justice Center**

Rachel Carson Council Rural Advancement Fund of the National Sharecroppers Fund **Rural Coalition** Santa Cruz Indivisible SEIU 32BJ Senior Citizens Matter Service Employees International Union Sierra Club SPLC Action Fund Stand Up America Stand Up! for Democracy in DC (Free DC) Students for D.C. Statehood The Fund for Community Reparations for Autistic People of Color's Interdependence, Survival, and Empowerment The George Washington University College Democrats The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society UFCW Local 400 **URGE:** Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity Voices for Progress VoteVets Ward 3 Democrats Ward 5 Democrats Ward 8 Democrats Washington Ethical Society Washington Teachers' Union Workplace Fairness

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