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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 27 Session of  
2023

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INTRODUCED BY HAYWOOD, FONTANA, CAPPELLETTI AND KANE,  
FEBRUARY 10, 2023

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, FEBRUARY 10, 2023

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A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the members of the Congress of the United States to  
2 support Federal legislation to admit Washington, DC, into the  
3 Union as a state of the United States of America.

4 WHEREAS, The people living on the land that would eventually  
5 be designated as the District of Columbia were provided the  
6 right to vote for representation in Congress when the United  
7 States Constitution was ratified in 1788; and

8 WHEREAS, The passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the  
9 District of Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United  
10 States Congress and abolished residents' right to vote for  
11 members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the  
12 United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Residents of the District of Columbia were granted  
14 the right to vote for President and Vice President of the United  
15 States through passage of the 23rd Amendment to the United  
16 States Constitution in 1961; and

17 WHEREAS, As of 2021, the United States Census Bureau data  
18 estimates that the District of Columbia's population, at

1 approximately 689,545 residents, is comparable to the  
2 populations of Wyoming (576,851), Vermont (643,077), Alaska  
3 (733,391) and North Dakota (779,094); and

4 WHEREAS, Residents of the District of Columbia share all the  
5 responsibilities of United States citizenship, including paying  
6 more Federal taxes than residents of 22 states, service on  
7 Federal juries and defending the United States as members of the  
8 United States armed forces in every war since the War for  
9 Independence, yet residents of the District of Columbia are  
10 denied full representation in Congress; and

11 WHEREAS, Residents of the District of Columbia have endorsed  
12 statehood for the District of Columbia and passed a district-  
13 wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which favored statehood by  
14 86%; and

15 WHEREAS, No other democratic nation denies the right of self-  
16 government, including participation in national legislature, to  
17 the residents of this nation's capital; and

18 WHEREAS, Residents of the District of Columbia lack full  
19 democracy, equality and citizenship enjoyed by the residents of  
20 the 50 states; and

21 WHEREAS, The United States Congress repeatedly has interfered  
22 with the District of Columbia's limited self-government by  
23 enacting laws that affect the District of Columbia's expenditure  
24 of locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of  
25 locally raised revenue, thus violating the fundamental principle  
26 that states and local governments are best suited to enact  
27 legislation that represents the will of the residents; and

28 WHEREAS, Although the District of Columbia has passed  
29 consecutive balanced budgets since fiscal year 1997, the  
30 District of Columbia still faces the possibility of being shut

1 down yearly because of congressional deliberations over the  
2 Federal budget; and

3 WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton  
4 and Delaware United States Senator Tom Carper introduced in the  
5 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, DC, Admission  
6 Act, that provides that the State of Washington, DC, would have  
7 all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American citizens,  
8 including two Senators and at least one House member; and

9 WHEREAS, The United Nations Human Rights Committee has called  
10 on the United States Congress to address the District of  
11 Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of  
12 American States has declared the disenfranchisement of the  
13 District of Columbia's residents a violation of its charter  
14 agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; therefore  
15 be it

16 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
17 urge the members of the Congress of the United States to enact  
18 Federal legislation granting statehood to the people of  
19 Washington, DC; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania support  
21 admitting Washington, DC, into the Union as a state of the  
22 United States of America; and be it further

23 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the  
24 President of the United States, the Vice President of the United  
25 States, the President pro tempore of the United States Senate,  
26 the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives and to  
27 each member of Congress from Pennsylvania.