

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 4

Joint resolution urging Congress to admit Washington, D.C., into the union as a state of the United States of America

Offered by: Representative White of Hartford

Whereas, the U.S. Constitution, as ratified following the Constitutional Convention of 1787, granted the right to vote for congressional representation to qualified voters in all the states, including those living in the sections of Maryland and Virginia that the “District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801” (the Act) designated as the nation’s capital, and

Whereas, the Act removed this territory from the states of Maryland and Virginia, disenfranchising the District of Columbia’s (the District) citizens from exercising the fundamental right to vote for public officials, and for over a century these American citizens could not participate in any local or federal election, and

Whereas, in 1961, the 23rd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave the District’s electorate the right to vote in presidential elections, and

Whereas, in 1970, Congress enacted 2 U.S.C. § 25a, authorizing the District’s voters to elect a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, and

Whereas, in 1973, Congress enacted the District of Columbia Self-Government and Governmental Reorganization Act, establishing local mayoral and city council elections in the District, but Congress has repeatedly interfered in the local government’s decision-making process, especially on budgetary matters, and

Whereas, the residents of the District, also known as Washington, D.C., pay federal income tax but are denied the full congressional representation, a voting member of the U.S. House of Representatives and two United States Senators, that exists in each of the 50 states, and

Whereas, D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and U.S. Senator Tom Carper of Delaware have respectively introduced in the 117th Congress H.R.51 and S.51 to grant statehood to the District of Columbia, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly of the State of Vermont supports admitting Washington, D.C., into the union as a state of the United States of America, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Joseph Biden, to the U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, to the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, to U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and to the Vermont Congressional Delegation.