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Written testimony submitted to the
House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
March 7, 2024

Dear Committee members:

I write in profound gratitude that you are considering this resolution supporting DC statehood which would give your fellow Americans who live in DC their full rights as citizens.

As you know, I and my nearly 700,000 neighbors have all the responsibilities of American citizens - paying federal taxes, serving on juries and in the military - yet have no voting representation in Congress and therefore no say on national legislation that affects us. The very definition of taxation with representation and contrary to what this country is founded on.

As your resolution recognizes, we also don't have full control over our own local government. Congress can overturn our laws and direct how our own taxes are spent - in direct opposition to our country's principle of self-governance.

Thank you for clarifying that the state of Maryland “for ever ceded and relinquished” the land that currently makes up the District of Columbia. Proposals for “retrocession” of the District to Maryland completely disregard the history of DC’s creation and settlement and how the District has developed since the Residence Act of 1790. We came here for many reasons: some already lived here when DC was created (and before 37 other states were admitted to the union); many to escape slavery, others to serve their government; others for private sector jobs. My parents lived and died here, my sister lives here, my nephew was born here.

As you know, we have a plan to preserve the federal district as required in the Constitution, while making the residential and commercial part of DC into a state. We want the same rights all other Americans enjoy: control over our local government and a say in Congress. Thank you so much for supporting us.

Create a more perfect union!

D.C. STATEHOOD

*for 700,000
people who live here*

*and a Federal
District for the
U.S. Capital*

DC League of Women Voters
www.lwvdc.org

Virginia

Maryland

