

My name is Rev. Wendy Hamilton and I write to you on this day in full support of this legislation to give voice and representation in Congress to the 700,000 God loving, hardworking, tax paying residents of Washington DC, where I make my home.

I am a mother, a grandmother, an ordained minister and a local neighborhood advisory commissioner. I work full- time in our public school system with middle school students and their families as well as serve on a few community boards of nonprofit organizations city wide.

I preach most Sundays and enjoy downtime to take in a concert or a play or just hang out with my grandson. I enjoy taking advantage of all the beautiful parks, walking paths and rec center programs DC offers as well as indulge in some of the cultural cuisine options unique to our city.

I am a living, breathing example of the Washington DC most don't know about or talk about.

When people or pundits mention Washington, they mostly focus on what happens on Capitol Hill, over on Pennsylvania Ave. or at the Supreme Court and while that's expected, as we are the Nation's Capitol, but what gets overlooked are the actual DC residents like me, who are living our lives, taking care of our families, going to work everyday and paying taxes like every other American and yet we have no one to speak for us in our own backyard. Something about that feels very un-American to me.

I write today to simply ask that you think of us, your fellow Americans, as you consider this legislation. We're not asking for anything unprecedented. We're not asking for anything unusual. We just want to have our voices, our thoughts, our concerns, and our issues fully represented in the House and the Senate like every other State in the Union.

DC Statehood is not just a slogan, a hashtag or a politically charged phrase. It encompasses the hearts, the minds, the values, the hopes and the dream of a population that has gone without a voice for far too long. You have an opportunity today to help us be made whole, it is my prayer that you would be so inclined to vote yes on this legislation.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.