



## **TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE**

**HJ009 - United States of America - District of Columbia – Statehood**

**POSITION: Favorable**

**BY: Linda Kohn, President**

**Date: March 11, 2024**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that citizens of the District of Columbia should be afforded the same rights of self-government and full voting representation in Congress as are all other citizens of the United States.

The League has supported DC self-government since 1938. Realization of these goals has been slow, but since 1961 DC residents have made some gains in the drive for full citizenship rights. The remaining goals—voting representation in both the House and Senate and full home-rule powers—were made explicit in the LWVUS program in March 1982. In 1993, at the request of the LWV of the District of Columbia, the LWVUS Board agreed that statehood for the District would “afford the same rights of self-government and full voting representation” for citizens of the District as for other US citizens and we now fully embrace statehood for Washington DC.

The citizens of the District of Columbia have waited far too long enjoy the same rights as other citizens. It is time to end their endurance of taxation without representation and allow them to govern themselves and have the right to elect full voting members of Congress.

**We urge a favorable report on HJ009.**