



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

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**HJ 9 - United States of America - District of Columbia - Statehood
House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee
March 11, 2024**

SUPPORT

Donna S. Edwards

President

Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HJ 9. My name is Donna S. Edwards, and I am the President of the Maryland State and District of Columbia AFL-CIO. On behalf of Maryland's 300,000 union members, I offer the following comments.

The unions of Maryland and D.C. AFL-CIO stand united in our support of the citizens of the District of Columbia to be able to fully execute their Constitutional right to fair representation and enjoy the full freedom of statehood. The current travesty of no representation has been allowed to continue for far too long, silencing the voices of nearly 700,000 Americans in our capital city.

HJ 9 honors those voiceless citizens in the District of Columbia and continues to push the conversation forward. We need to keep up pressure on Congress to finally recognize the rights of D.C. residents, and add their voices and their votes to the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

This position of the Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO was re-affirmed at our 2022 Convention. The Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO was a dedicated supporter of D.C. self-governance, even passing resolutions in support of home rule at our second convention in 1959.

We urge a favorable report for HJ 9.

2022 Maryland State & DC AFL-CIO Convention
Resolution #2 - In Support of D.C. Statehood - Passed Unanimously

WHEREAS, this nation is founded on the belief that all people are endowed with certain inalienable rights and that to secure these rights, governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; and

WHEREAS, the rights of the residents of the District of Columbia are abridged when the U.S. Congress imposes its will on local matters and denies us voting representation on federal issues in both houses of the U.S. Congress; and

WHEREAS, the people of the District of Columbia are the only Americans who still bear all of the responsibilities of citizenship, but who do not enjoy all of the rights of citizenship, including authority over state and local matters and representation in both houses of Congress, making the District, in effect, a colony under Congressional jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, statehood will ensure that residents of the District of Columbia enjoy full rights in state and local matters and voting representation in both houses of the U.S. Congress just like every other citizen of the United States of America, and is a matter of simple justice:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO has always supported statehood for the people of Washington, D.C., urges Congress to grant the people of Washington, D.C. the full rights of American citizenship, and will work with all affiliates to finally realize the goal of making the District of Columbia the 51st State.