

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
House Joint Resolution 8
United States - District of Columbia - Statehood
Rules and Executive Nominations
Ann Healy; Chairperson
March 2, 2020**

MADAME CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK TODAY. IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO PROMOTE STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. AS A FORMER RESIDENT, ELECTED OFFICIAL AND MEMBER OF THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT AGAINST THE FINANCIAL CONTROL BOARD DURING THE LATE 1990'S I AM PLEASED TO SEE THAT I STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADVOCATE ON BEHALF OF MY FORMER NEIGHBORS AND CONSTITUENTS WHO PAY FEDERAL TAXES, DIE IN WARS AND DON'T HAVE VOTING REPRESENTATION AND SELF DETERMINATION AS A STATE.

THE HISTORY SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. AS YOU SEE FROM THE RESOLUTION VOTING RIGHTS WERE FOUNDED FOR THE DISTRICT IN 1788 AND THEN ABOLISHED IN 1801. VOTING RIGHTS WERE THEN LATER RESTORED IN 1961 BUT IT TOOK THE 23RD AMENDMENT AND THAT VOTING RESTORATION WAS JUST FOR PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT. THE DISTRICT WAS LATER GIVEN PARTIAL HOME RULE THAT DIDN'T INCLUDE FULL SELF-DETERMINATION. SINCE THEN THERE HAS BEEN THIS PUSH AND PULL BETWEEN WHATEVER POWER THAT WISHED TO PUNISH THE DISTRICT FOR TRYING TO BE FREE.

AS A REMINDER, WHEN THE LATE MAYOR MARION S. BARRY WAS ELECTED IN 1994 THE NEW REPUBLICAN MAJORITY UNDER THE LEADERSHIP THEN SPEAKER NEWT GINGRICH TOOK THE POWER OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT AWAY AND PLACED THE CITY UNDER THE OVERSIGHT OF THE FINANCIAL CONTROL BOARD. AT THE TIME THE ACCUSATION WAS THAT THE GOVERNMENT UNDER MAYOR MARION BARRY WOULD BE CORRUPT AND IRRESPONSIBLE. WE NOW KNOW THAT THE RESULT WAS CORRUPTION AND NEFARIOUS ACTIONS BY THOSE WHO WERE PUT INTO PLACE BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. PEOPLE LIKE 1 TERM SENATOR LAUCH FAIRCLOTH WHO SPENT SO MUCH TIME IN DC AFFAIRS THAT IT GAVE US TIME TO TRAVEL TO HIS DISTRICT AND HELP TO ELECT JOHN EDWARDS.

THE GOAL IN GIVING YOU THIS HISTORY IS NOT TO HIGHLIGHT ANY DEFECTS IN PARTISANSHIP BUT TO SHOWCASE THAT AS LONG HAS THIS PUSH PULL CAN HAPPEN IT WILL NOT BE TO THE ADVANTAGE OF THE CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. AS STATED, THE 1973 LIMITED HOME RULE WAS NOT EVEN ENOUGH AND THE TERRIBLE DECISION TO SHOVE THE CONTROL BOARD DOWN THE THROATS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WAS AN INSULT TO NOT JUST RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BUT FOR ANY AMERICAN WHO DESIRES TO BE TREATED LIKE A HUMAN BEING AND RESPECTED AS A CITIZEN OF THIS COUNTRY. SIMPLY PUT, IF SLAVERY IS WRONG TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION AND LIMITED SELF-DETERMINATION IS WRONG. IF WHITE SUPREMACY IS WRONG TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION AND LIMITED SELF-DETERMINATION IS WRONG.

FOR THOSE WHO WHO NEED TO BE REMINDED THE PUSH/PULL OF THE AFFAIRS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IS THE EQUIVALENT OF THIS PANEL DETERMINING THAT ALL OF YOU

SHOULD TAKEOVER FINANCIAL AFFAIRS OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE WHENEVER YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO. I HOPE THAT YOU GET THE POINT.

THE NAACP HAS BEEN CONSISTENT IN OUR SUPPORT OF STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AS RECENT AS 2017 WHEN WE VOTED TO SUPPORT STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT AT OUR CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE, MD. THE NAACP MARYLAND STATE CONFERENCE IS JUST AS COMMITTED TODAY. WE ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR JOINT RESOLUTION 8. TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IS TYRANNY!

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