



MARYLAND STATE & D.C. AFL-CIO

AFFILIATED WITH NATIONAL AFL-CIO

7 School Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401-2096

Office. (410) 269-1940 • Fax (410) 280-2956

President

Donna S. Edwards

Secretary-Treasurer

Gerald W. Jackson

HJ 5 – United States of America – District of Columbia – Statehood House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee March 15, 2021

SUPPORT

**Donna S. Edwards
President
Maryland State and D.C. AFL-CIO**

Madam Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HJ 5 – United States of America – District of Columbia – Statehood. My name is Donna Edwards, President of the Maryland State and DC AFL-CIO. On behalf of the 340,000 union members in the state of Maryland, I offer the following comments.

The unions of Maryland and D.C. 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 on no representation has been allowed to continue for far too long, silencing the voices of nearly 700,000 Americans in, ironically, America's capital city.

HJ 5 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.

We urge a favorable vote on HJ 5.