

Senate Resolution No. 1740

By Senators Holscher, Corson, Faust-Goudeau, Francisco, Haley, Pettey, Pittman
and Sykes

2-15

1 A RESOLUTION supporting the admission of Washington, District of
2 Columbia, into the union as a state of the United States of America.

3
4 WHEREAS, Since ratifying the Constitution of the United States on
5 June 21, 1788, the Congress of the United States has held the exclusive
6 legislative power, in all cases whatsoever, over a district not exceeding 10
7 square miles, to become the seat of the United States government through
8 the cession of particular states and the acceptance of the Congress of the
9 United States; and

10 WHEREAS, On July 16, 1790, the Congress of the United States
11 chose Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the location for the seat of
12 government; and

13 WHEREAS, On December 1, 1800, the seat of government of the
14 United States was transferred from the commonwealth of Pennsylvania
15 to the District of Columbia, in accordance with the Residence Act of
16 1790; and

17 WHEREAS, On February 27, 1801, the District of Columbia was
18 organized under the entire control of the Congress of the United States for
19 every purpose of government, in accordance with the District of
20 Columbia Organic Act of 1801, and consequently, the residents of the
21 District of Columbia ceased to be considered citizens of a state; and

22 WHEREAS, Despite continuing to pay federal taxes, serving in the
23 military and sharing all other responsibilities of citizenship of the United
24 States, the residents of the District of Columbia lost its entitlement to all
25 rights, guaranties and immunities of the Constitution of the United States;
26 and

27 WHEREAS, Such rights included the right to appoint at least three
28 electors in the electoral college for the President and Vice President of the
29 United States, the right to elect two senators and at least one
30 representative in the Congress of the United States and the right to self-
31 govern and ratify proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United
32 States; and

33 WHEREAS, On July 16, 1960, the 23rd Amendment of the
34 Constitution of the United States was proposed by the Congress of the
35 United States; and

1 WHEREAS, On March 29, 1961, the 23rd Amendment was ratified by
2 a sufficient number of states; and

3 WHEREAS, The 23rd Amendment granted the District of Columbia
4 the right to appoint electors for the President and Vice President of the
5 United States. The number of electors would be equal to the total number
6 of senators and representatives to which the District of Columbia would
7 be entitled in the Congress of the United States if it were a state, but
8 never exceeding the representation of the least populous state; and

9 WHEREAS, On September 22, 1970, after previously establishing the
10 position on February 21, 1871, and repealing the position on June 20,
11 1874, the Congress of the United States granted a delegate to the House
12 of Representatives from the District of Columbia, with the right of debate
13 but not of voting, in accordance with the District of Columbia Delegate
14 Act; and

15 WHEREAS, On December 24, 1973, the Congress of the United
16 States enacted the District of Columbia Home Rule Act; and

17 WHEREAS, On May 7, 1974, a majority of votes ratified the Charter
18 Referendum, which re-organized the District of Columbia by granting
19 limited powers of local self-government to an elected 13-member council
20 and an elected mayor of the District of Columbia in order to relieve the
21 Congress of the United States of the burden of legislating upon
22 essentially local matters; and

23 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States, without granting local
24 control over the judiciary, reserved the right to enact legislation for the
25 District of Columbia at any time, exercising its constitutional authority as
26 the legislature. This legislation could cover any subject, regardless of
27 whether it fell within or outside the council of the District of Columbia's
28 granted legislative power, including the amendment or repeal of existing
29 laws in the District of Columbia; and

30 WHEREAS, Historically, the Congress of the United States and the
31 President of the United States have interfered with the District of
32 Columbia's local self-government and home rule by enacting resolutions
33 disapproving, amending and repealing actions of the council and the
34 mayor of the District of Columbia; and

35 WHEREAS, Cases of such interference include the location of
36 chanceries on December 20, 1979, sexual assault reform on October 1,
37 1981, schedule of heights on March 12, 1991 and a revised criminal code
38 on March 20, 2023; and

39 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States and the President of
40 the United States have imposed budget riders that control and limit the
41 use of locally raised tax revenue in cases concerning reproductive health
42 services, cannabis use and statehood advocacy; and

43 WHEREAS, On multiple occasions, a majority of the voters of the

1 District of Columbia have approved initiatives and referendums
2 expressing their desire for statehood; and

3 WHEREAS, On November 8, 2016, 85.69% of voters approved the
4 admission of the District of Columbia into the union as the state of
5 Washington, District of Columbia. The voters also approved the
6 Constitution of the state of Washington, District of Columbia, the
7 proposed boundaries between the state of Washington, District of
8 Columbia, and the federal enclave and agreed that the state of
9 Washington, District of Columbia, shall ensure a government with elected
10 representatives; and

11 WHEREAS, Other state and territorial legislatures in the United States
12 have introduced, debated and passed resolutions supporting the admission
13 of Washington, District of Columbia, into the union as a state of the
14 United States of America; and

15 WHEREAS, Despite the Constitution of the United States allowing
16 for the admission of new states into the union by the Congress of the
17 United States, the United States House of Representatives passed the
18 Washington, D.C. Admission Act on June 26, 2020, and again on April
19 22, 2021, which would declare Washington, District of Columbia, as a
20 state. However, the approximately 700,000 residents of Washington,
21 District of Columbia, have yet to be granted full statehood by the
22 Congress of the United States: Now, therefore,

23 Be it resolved by the Senate of the State of Kansas: That the state of
24 Kansas supports the admission of Washington, District of Columbia, into
25 the union as a state of the United States of America; and

26 *Be it further resolved:* That the state of Kansas opposes efforts by the
27 Congress of the United States and the President of the United States to
28 interfere with local self-government and home rule of the District of
29 Columbia. These efforts include federal laws that disapprove, amend and
30 repeal actions of the council and the mayor of the District of Columbia, as
31 well as federal budget riders that control and limit the use of locally
32 raised tax revenue; and

33 *Be it further resolved:* That the state of Kansas calls on the Congress
34 of the United States and the President of the United States to enact federal
35 legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, District of
36 Columbia; and

37 *Be it further resolved:* That the Secretary of the Senate shall send
38 enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the
39 Vice President of the United States operating as President of the United
40 States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,
41 the members of the Kansas congressional delegation and Senator
42 Holscher.