

HM 1219

2012

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
3 urging Congress to admit the District of Columbia as  
4 the 51st state of the United States of America.

5  
6 WHEREAS, citizens of the District of Columbia have been  
7 denied federal voting rights and complete self-governance since  
8 1801, and

9 WHEREAS, the District's 600,000 residents are not entitled  
10 to full voting representation in Congress and lack an autonomous  
11 local government, and

12 WHEREAS, residents of the District pay more than \$3.8  
13 billion each year in federal income taxes, yet have no voice as  
14 to how their taxes are spent, and

15 WHEREAS, Congress oversees the democratically elected  
16 District government and can change or veto any budget or  
17 legislative matter passed by its locally elected officials, and

18 WHEREAS, over 40,000 veterans reside in the District of  
19 Columbia, which accounts for more veterans per capita than any  
20 other city in the nation, and

21 WHEREAS, residents of the District have fought and given  
22 their lives in every international conflict beginning with the  
23 War for Independence and, during the Vietnam conflict,  
24 registered more casualties than 10 states and recorded more  
25 deaths per capita than 47 states, and

26 WHEREAS, the international effort to plant and nurture  
27 democracy in the farthest reaches of the globe is diminished at  
28 home by the denial of democracy to the District's residents, and

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29 WHEREAS, it is an extreme contradiction that this nation,  
30 the exemplary leader of representative democracy, denies  
31 national voting representation to the residents of its capital,  
32 and

33 WHEREAS, the District of Columbia is the only entity in the  
34 United States whose residents shoulder the complete  
35 responsibilities of citizenship without enjoying the complete  
36 privileges of citizenship, NOW, THEREFORE,

37

38 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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40 That the Legislature formally declares its support for  
41 admitting the District of Columbia as the 51st state of the  
42 United States of America.

43 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
44 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
45 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
46 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
47 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.