

By Senator Braynon

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Senate Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, it is an extreme contradiction that this nation,

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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,

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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.