

HM 767

2023

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to enact federal legislation granting
4 statehood to the people of the District of Columbia.
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6 WHEREAS, the people living on the land that would
7 eventually be designated as the District of Columbia were
8 provided the right to vote for representation in the United
9 States Congress when the United States Constitution was ratified
10 in 1788, and

11 WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the
12 District of Columbia under the exclusive jurisdiction of the
13 United States Congress, and

14 WHEREAS, in 1961, residents of the District of Columbia
15 were granted the right to vote in national elections for
16 President and Vice President of the United States through
17 passage of the Twenty-third Amendment to the United States
18 Constitution, and

19 WHEREAS, as of 2022, the United States Census Bureau data
20 estimates that the District of Columbia's population of
21 approximately 671,803 residents is comparable to the populations
22 of Wyoming (576,851), Vermont (643,077), Alaska (733,391), and
23 North Dakota (779,094), and

24 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all
25 the responsibilities of United States citizenship, including

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26 | paying federal taxes, serving on federal juries, and defending
 27 | the United States as members of the United States Armed Forces
 28 | in every war since the American Revolutionary War, and

29 | WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia have
 30 | endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia and passed a
 31 | districtwide referendum on November 8, 2016, in which 86 percent
 32 | of voters favored statehood, and

33 | WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has
 34 | called on the United States Congress to address the District of
 35 | Columbia's lack of political equality, and

36 | WHEREAS, the Organization of American States has declared
 37 | the disenfranchisement of the District of Columbia residents a
 38 | violation of its charter agreement, to which the United States
 39 | is a signatory, and

40 | WHEREAS, District of Columbia United States Representative
 41 | Eleanor Holmes Norton and Delaware United States Senator Tom
 42 | Carper introduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the
 43 | Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which would have granted to the
 44 | residents of the State of Washington, D.C., all the rights of
 45 | citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including two United
 46 | States Senators and at least one member of the United States
 47 | House of Representatives, NOW, THEREFORE,

48 |
 49 | Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 50 |

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51 That the Congress of the United States is urged to enact
52 federal legislation granting statehood to the people of the
53 District of Columbia.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch
55 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,
56 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
57 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the
58 Florida delegation to the United States Congress.