

Common Cause Urges “Yes” Vote on Washington, DC Admission Act (HR 51) *Will Score Vote on Our 2020 Democracy Scorecard*

June 25, 2020

Dear Representative:

For our country’s entire history, residents of Washington, DC, have lacked a full voice in government. The people of Washington, DC, have been living without real representation and equal opportunities to participate, to vote, and have their voices fully heard. It is far past time for Washington, DC, to be treated equally. On behalf of Common Cause’s more than 1.2 million members around the country and thousands in Washington, DC, we urge you to vote “yes” on HR 51. As previously mentioned in letters to your office, **we will be scoring this vote in our forthcoming 2020 [Democracy Scorecard](#).**

We must strive for a democracy in which everyone can participate and have full representation. However, for far too long, Washingtonians have been treated as second-class citizens, despite that DC residents pay the highest per-capita federal income taxes in the country. The more than 700,000 residents of our nation’s capital pay more in total federal income tax than residents of 22 other states but have no say how those tax dollars are spent. Washington, DC, residents have fought and died in every war our country has fought in, yet those veterans are denied the freedoms that they have fought, and in some cases died, for. And just several weeks ago, some Washington, DC, residents who were peacefully protesting by the White House were tear-gassed, yet they have limited forms of filing grievances because they lack full representation in Congress.

As DC Vote noted, across America today, “people are working to dismantle racist constructs and systems. With a majority Black and Brown population, the fight for DC Statehood cannot be separated from the fight for racial justice.”

We completely agree and urge you to vote for HR 51 when it is expected to come to the House floor tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn
President
Common Cause