

**Common Cause Urges “Yes” Vote on Washington, D.C. Admission Act (H.R. 51); Will Score Vote on Our Next Democracy Scorecard**

April 21, 2021

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 1.5 million members, we strongly urge you to vote for the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (H.R. 51) when it is voted on by the House of Representatives later this week. **We will key-vote this bill in our next [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 last summer, 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.

The majority of Washington, DC, residents are Black and Brown, and the Washington, D.C. Admission Act is ultimately a civil rights and a social justice issue. It’s time to end “taxation without representation” once and for all by providing the more than 700,000 residents of Washington, DC, with a stronger voice and the freedom to vote that they deserve.

We strongly urge you to vote for H.R. 51 when the House votes on the bill tomorrow.

Sincerely,



Karen Hobert Flynn  
President  
Common Cause