

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Congress of the United States to
2 enact legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

3 WHEREAS, the people living on the land that would eventually be designated as
4 the District of Columbia were provided the right to vote for representation in Congress
5 when the Constitution of the United States was ratified in 1788; and

6 WHEREAS, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of
7 Columbia under the exclusive authority of the Congress of the United States and
8 abolished the right of residents to vote for members of Congress and for President and
9 Vice President of the United States; and

10 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia were granted the right to vote for
11 President and Vice President of the United States through passage of the Twenty-third
12 Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in 1961; and

13 WHEREAS, as of 2020, Census Bureau of the United States data include estimates
14 that show the population of the District of Columbia, at approximately 689,545 residents,
15 is comparable to the populations of Wyoming (576,851), Vermont (643,077), Alaska
16 (733,391), and North Dakota (779,094); and

17 WHEREAS, residents of the District of Columbia share all the responsibilities of
18 citizenship in the United States, including paying more in federal taxes than residents of
19 22 states, service on federal juries, and defending the United States as members of the
20 Armed Forces of the United States in every war since the War for American
21 Independence, yet they are denied full representation in Congress; and

22 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have endorsed
23 statehood in a District-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which showed
24 approximately 80 percent of the voters favored statehood; and

25 WHEREAS, no other democratic nation denies the right of self-government,
26 including representation in its national legislature, to residents of its capital; and

27 WHEREAS, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality,

1 and citizenship enjoyed by residents of the 50 states; and

2 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has repeatedly interfered with the
3 District of Columbia's limited self-government by enacting laws that affect the District of
4 Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of
5 locally raised revenue, thus violating the fundamental principle that states and local
6 governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents the will of their citizens;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, although the District of Columbia has passed consecutive balanced
9 budgets since fiscal year 1997, it still faces the possibility of government shut-downs
10 annually because of federal deliberations over the federal budget; and

11 WHEREAS, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and United
12 States Senator Tom Carper of Delaware introduced H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington,
13 D.C. Admission Act, during the 117th Congress, which provides that the residents of the
14 state of Washington, D.C., have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American
15 citizens, including the representation of two United States Senators and at least one
16 member of the United States House of Representatives; and

17 WHEREAS, the United Nations Human Rights Committee has called on the
18 Congress of the United States to address the District of Columbia's lack of political
19 equality, and the Organization of American States has declared the disenfranchisement of
20 residents of the District of Columbia a violation of its charter agreement, to which the
21 United States is a signatory;

22 NOW, THEREFORE,

23 ***Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the***
24 ***Commonwealth of Kentucky, the Senate concurring therein:***

25 ➔Section 1. The Commonwealth of Kentucky supports the admission of
26 Washington, D.C., into the union as a state of the United States of America.

27 ➔Section 2. The members of the United States Congress are urged to enact

- 1 federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.