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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 102 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY KENYATTA, STURLA, HILL-EVANS, N. NELSON,  
SCHLOSSBERG, SAMUELSON, SHUSTERMAN AND SANCHEZ, MAY 17, 2021

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 17, 2021

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to admit Washington,  
2 DC, as the 51st state of the United States of America.

3 WHEREAS, Washington, DC, was established in 1790 to serve as  
4 the seat of the Federal Government; and

5 WHEREAS, For a brief time after the District of Columbia was  
6 created, residents were given voting rights and had the ability  
7 to cast ballots as residents of Maryland or Virginia; and

8 WHEREAS, When the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801  
9 passed, Washington, DC, residents were stripped of the rights to  
10 vote in all Federal elections and Congress was given oversight  
11 of the city; and

12 WHEREAS, Residents of the District of Columbia were not  
13 afforded presidential electors until 1961 and the residents were  
14 not given a nonvoting delegate in the United States House of  
15 Representatives until 1970; and

16 WHEREAS, Since the creation of the District of Columbia, it  
17 is the only political and geographical entity within the United  
18 States of America whose residents have continuously been denied

1 their full set of rights as American citizens; and

2 WHEREAS, Residents of Washington, DC, pay Federal taxes,  
3 contribute to our national economy and serve in the military but  
4 are unable to control their own budget or have true  
5 representation in the Federal Government; and

6 WHEREAS, Washington, DC, citizens face not only equal  
7 representation issues but also racial inequality issues; and

8 WHEREAS, The District of Columbia is a historically Black  
9 city with Black people still making up the majority of the  
10 population; and

11 WHEREAS, American democracy systematically over represents  
12 white voters and this is exacerbated with the lack of  
13 representation from Washington, DC, in the Federal Government;  
14 and

15 WHEREAS, Due to this lack of representation, there is wide  
16 oppression and continuous disenfranchisement of Black Americans;  
17 and

18 WHEREAS, Every year since 1991, Washington, DC's, Delegate  
19 Eleanor Holmes Norton has introduced legislation that would  
20 grant statehood to the district; and

21 WHEREAS, As a third-generation Washingtonian, Delegate Norton  
22 has been witness to the inequalities that the denial of  
23 statehood has brought upon Washington, DC, and continuously  
24 fights for the district's equal representation; and

25 WHEREAS, This year, the bill aiming to achieve such an  
26 important goal is H.R. 51; and

27 WHEREAS, At least 11 states have sponsored legislative  
28 resolutions and issued formal letters to show their support for  
29 Washington, DC, statehood; and

30 WHEREAS, Now is the time to show the people of Washington,

1 DC, that their voices matter; therefore be it

2 RESOLVED (the Senate concurring), That the General Assembly  
3 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the  
4 United States to admit Washington, DC, as the 51st state of the  
5 United States of America; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of  
7 Pennsylvania urge the Congress of the United States to pass H.R.  
8 51 or other legislation that allows Washington, DC, to become  
9 the 51st state of the United States of America; and be it  
10 further

11 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
12 the presiding officers of each house of Congress and to each  
13 member of Congress from Pennsylvania.