

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Office of the Senior Advisor

Testimony on House Resolution 5
In Support of DC Statehood



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Submission to the
Committee on Rules and Executive Nominations
Maryland House of Delegates

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Good afternoon, Chairwoman Healey, Vice Chairman Holmes, and committee members. Thank you for the opportunity to add the collective voice of 712,000 taxpaying citizens of Washington, DC to your deliberations on House Joint Resolution 5. I want to especially thank Delegate Acevero for uplifting our residents through the reintroduction of this resolution.

For the record my name is Beverly Perry, I serve as Senior Advisor to Mayor Muriel Bowser of Washington, DC, a jurisdiction that effectively operates as a city, county and state. Once again, Washington, DC is pursuing Statehood in the new Congress, and we are honored to have the support of all democratic members of the Maryland and Virginia congressional delegations.

On March 22nd, Mayor Muriel Bowser and other District of Columbia officials will testify before the House of Representatives and reiterate to Congress that Washington, DC is ready and has satisfied all of the criteria required to become a state. We know that our case is strong, and we know that there is no legal or moral issue that would bar our claim for full democracy and full citizenship.

We are often reminded, however, that one of the most persistent arguments against DC Statehood is the push for the District to retrocede to the State of

Maryland. The citizens of Maryland and the District of Columbia have collectively moved beyond this approach with many supporting an independent state comprised of the residential and commercial areas of Washington, DC. Adoption of this resolution would finally put the false option of rejoining Maryland to bed. This year, in particular, states across the country are considering resolutions in support of DC Statehood, while a couple are considering resolutions against. Maryland, however, has a stronger interest than any other state and Washingtonians need our Maryland neighbors to add their voices to ours.

For the record, Washington, DC can afford statehood; we are ready for the transition to statehood, and most importantly, the Federal District occupied by the Federal government will continued under their exclusive control as required by the constitution.

I thank you again for taking the time to consider this resolution and for addressing this stain on America's democracy.