

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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Closing Statement
Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney
Markup on “H.R. 51: Making D.C. the 51st State”
April 14, 2021

I would like to thank all of the Members for a spirited debate on this critical civil rights issue.

Statehood for D.C. is about equality, fairness, and ensuring that the dreams of our Founders are realized despite over 200 years of delayed justice. Our nation is founded upon the idea that all people should have a voice in their government. But without voting representation in Congress, the people of D.C. are denied that most basic right.

The demand of D.C. residents to be afforded equal rights forces us to confront the fundamental question of who we are as a nation. Do we believe in the right to representation in government, or are these just words?

D.C. residents pay their taxes. They serve in our nation’s armed services. Most importantly, they are Americans and deserve the equal rights our national ideals and foundational documents demand.

I want to again thank Congresswoman Norton for her tireless advocacy to ensure that D.C. residents finally gain the full representation they deserve.

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