



AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

Eric Bunn Sr.
National Secretary-Treasurer

Dr. Everett B. Kelley
National President

Jeremy A. Lannan
NVP for Women & Fair Practices

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Norton:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO, which represents 700,000 federal and District of Columbia (D.C.) government workers, we urge you to support H.R. 51, the “Washington, D.C. Admissions Act,” and reject any anti-union or antiworker amendments.

Federal employees who live and work in the District of Columbia, and indeed every resident of Washington, D.C., deserve to have full and equal representation in Congress. States are the fundamental basis for our system of government and to deny a population the ability to form a state denies them the ability to fully participate in self-governance. Any solution short of statehood would simply continue the two-tiered system of citizenship the residents of the District of Columbia have endured for 200 years.

H.R. 51 preserves a constitutionally required Federal District that enshrines the area that houses the three branches of our federal government, our iconic monuments, and the National Mall and preserves it for all Americans.

One in five residents of the District of Columbia – more than 140,000 in total – work for the federal government and yet do not have equal representation in the government for which they work. This must be corrected.

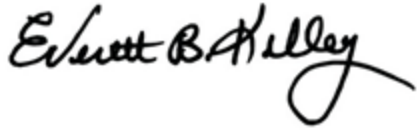
The need for D.C. statehood became glaringly clear earlier this year when Congress passed the CARES Act and treated D.C. as a territory, instead of as a state, in the Coronavirus Relief Fund. D.C. is almost always treated as a state for purposes of federal funding because it pays full federal taxes, however, in this instance it was not and as a result, D.C. was deprived of \$755 million in much-needed revenue.

Please support H.R. 51, the “Washington, D.C. Admissions Act,” and reject any amendments that would undermine the rights of federal employees.

If you have any questions about AFGE’s position on this bill, please contact Sandra Salstrom, sandra.salstrom@afge.org; 202-851-2182.

[Please find a copy of the letter here.](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Everett B. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Everett B. Kelley
National President