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June 25, 2020

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

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to urge strong support for the "Washington, D.C. Admission Act" (H.R. 51) that would admit the state of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth as the 51st state in the nation, and provide its residents with full voting rights and representation in the United States Senate and House of Representatives.

This important legislation means finally that the commonwealth shall be admitted to the Union on an equal footing with the other states. It also goes to the heart of the timely question of whether we as a nation are a true democratic republic that affords all of its citizens the full voting rights of the U.S. Constitution and whether the more than 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia, which is more populous than several states, should have the same rights and privileges of all other Americans living in the 50 states. In granting this right it reverses the injustice that has plagued Washington, D.C. since its inception, including putting an end to harmful federal interference.

This initiative is overwhelmingly supported by citizens of the District, which includes many AFSCME members both current and retired, as well as their families, who are among those disenfranchised citizens that work and pay their taxes just like any other American. In fact, D.C. residents pay among the highest per capita federal taxes in the nation, giving true meaning to the phrase "Taxation without Representation." D.C. residents also, of course, serve in the federal armed services protecting our country. It is past time to grant these residents more autonomous control over how the District of Columbia spends its locally raised tax revenue.

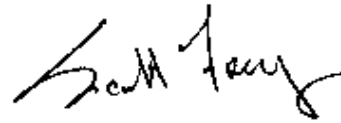
AFSCME strongly supports this legislation and urges passage by the House. Residents of the District of Columbia deserve the same equality and rights to self-government enjoyed by other Americans living in the 50 states, including local budget

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

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autonomy; ability to pass its own laws without delay, direct congressional oversight, or preemptive interference; and equal representation in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Frey". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Scott Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs

SF/EJ:cg