

# Senate Joint Memorial 6

Sponsored by Senator MANNING JR (at the request of Noah Wills)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges Congress to enact legislation granting statehood to Washington, D.C.

## JOINT MEMORIAL

1  
2 To the President of the United States and the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United  
3 States of America, in Congress assembled:

4 We, your memorialists, the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, in legis-  
5 lative session assembled, respectfully represent as follows:

6 Whereas the people living on the land that would eventually be designated as the District of  
7 Columbia were provided the right to vote for representation in Congress when the United States  
8 Constitution was ratified in 1788; and

9 Whereas the passage of the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of  
10 Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United States Congress and abolished residents' right  
11 to vote for members of Congress and the President and Vice President of the United States; and

12 Whereas residents of the District of Columbia were granted the right to vote for the President  
13 and Vice President through passage of the Twenty-Third Amendment to the United States Consti-  
14 tution in 1961; and

15 Whereas as of 2022, United States Census Bureau data estimate that the District of Columbia's  
16 population of approximately 670,000 residents is comparable to the populations of Wyoming,  
17 Vermont, Alaska and North Dakota; and

18 Whereas residents of the District of Columbia share all the responsibilities of United States  
19 citizenship, including paying more federal taxes than residents of 22 states, service on federal juries  
20 and defending the nation as members of the Armed Forces of the United States in every war since  
21 the War for Independence, yet they are denied full representation in Congress; and

22 Whereas the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have endorsed statehood for the  
23 District of Columbia and passed a district-wide referendum on November 8, 2016, which favored  
24 statehood by 86 percent; and

25 Whereas no other democratic nation denies the right of self-government, including participation  
26 in its national legislature, to the residents of its capital; and

27 Whereas the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy, equality and citizenship  
28 enjoyed by the residents of the 50 states; and

29 Whereas the United States Congress repeatedly has interfered with the District of Columbia's  
30 limited self-government by enacting laws that affect the District of Columbia's expenditure of its  
31 locally raised tax revenue, including barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus violating the  
32 fundamental principle that states and local governments are best suited to enact legislation that

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 represents the will of their citizens; and

2       Whereas although the District of Columbia has passed consecutive balanced budgets since fiscal  
3 year 1997, it still faces the possibility of being shut down yearly because of congressional deliber-  
4 ations over the federal budget; and

5       Whereas District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and United States Senator from  
6 Delaware Tom Carper introduced in the 118th Congress H.R. 51 and S. 51, the Washington, D.C.  
7 Admission Act, which provides that the people of the State of Washington, D.C., would have all the  
8 rights of citizenship as taxpaying American citizens, including representation by two Senators and  
9 at least one House member; and

10       Whereas the United Nations Human Rights Committee has called on the United States Congress  
11 to address the District of Columbia's lack of political equality, and the Organization of American  
12 States has declared the disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents to be a violation of its  
13 charter agreement, to which the United States is a signatory; now, therefore,

14 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

15       That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, respectfully urge the Congress  
16 of the United States to pass, and the President to sign, legislation granting statehood to Washington,  
17 D.C.; and be it further

18       Resolved, That the State of Oregon supports admitting Washington, D.C., into the Union as a  
19 state of the United States of America; and be it further

20       Resolved, That a copy of this memorial shall be sent to the President of the United States, to  
21 the Senate Majority Leader, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and to each member  
22 of the Oregon Congressional Delegation.

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