



1201 16th Street, NW | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: 202-833-4000

Lily Eskelsen García  
*President*

Rebecca S. Pringle  
*Vice President*

Princess R. Moss  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

Kim A. Anderson  
*Executive Director*

February 10, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Oversight and Reform  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we would like to express our support for H.R. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, which would make Washington, D.C. our nation's 51st state. We urge you to vote YES because H.R. 51 will correct a basic injustice. We also ask that the committee not allow any "poison pill" amendments that would foist upon residents dictates about which they have no say. Votes associated with this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 116th Congress.

With more than 700,000 residents, the District of Columbia has a larger population than Vermont and Wyoming, and about the same population as Alaska and North Dakota. The citizens of those states have the right to full citizenship; certainly, District of Columbia residents deserve no less. District residents pay \$10,841 per capita per year in federal taxes, more than any other state, the [Tax Foundation](#) reports. Yet taxation without representation endures in the capital of the nation that preaches about the importance of democracy to *other* nations.

Giving residents of the District of Columbia the right to full citizenship is a matter of fairness. H.R. 51 would preserve the constitutionally required federal district that houses all three branches of the federal government, our iconic monuments, and the National Mall. The neighborhoods and commercial areas where the people of the District of Columbia live and raise their families would comprise the 51st state.

The glaring lack of democracy in our nation's capital is an embarrassment and a grave injustice. Furthermore, it makes a mockery of the principles of fairness and equality that educators teach in classrooms every day. No other democratic nation denies the residents of its capital city the right to self-government. The residents of the District of Columbia deserve equal voting rights, autonomy under the law, and a meaningful voice in the Congress of the United States—just like residents of the 50 states.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan  
Director of Government Relations  
National Education Association