

**TWENTY-SECOND NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH**  
**LEGISLATURE**  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

\_\_\_\_\_ Session, 2021

H. J. R. 22-6

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**A HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION**

To urge Members of the United States Congress to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

1           **WHEREAS**, the people living on the land that would eventually be  
2 designated as the District of Columbia were provided the right to vote for  
3 representation in Congress when the United States Constitution was ratified in  
4 1788; and

5           **WHEREAS**, the passage of the Organic Act of 1801 placed the District of  
6 Columbia under the exclusive authority of the United States Congress and  
7 abolished residents' right to vote for members of Congress and the President and  
8 Vice President of the United States; and

9           **WHEREAS**, residents of the District of Columbia were granted the right to  
10 vote for the President and Vice President through passage of the Twenty-Third  
11 Amendment to the United States Constitution in 1961; and

12           **WHEREAS**, as of 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau data estimates that the  
13 District of Columbia's population at approximately 712,000 residents is

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1 comparable to the populations of Wyoming (582,000), Vermont (623,000), Alaska  
2 (731,000), and North Dakota (765,000); and

3       **WHEREAS**, residents of the District of Columbia share all the  
4 responsibilities of United States citizenship, including paying more federal taxes  
5 than residents of 22 states, service on federal juries, and defending the United States  
6 as members of the United States armed forces in every war since the War for  
7 Independence, yet they are denied full representation in Congress; and

8       **WHEREAS**, the residents of the District of Columbia themselves have  
9 endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia and passed a District-wide  
10 referendum on November 8, 2016, which favored statehood by 86%; and

11       **WHEREAS**, no other democratic nation denies the right of self-  
12 government, including participation in its national legislature, to the residents of its  
13 capital; and

14       **WHEREAS**, the residents of the District of Columbia lack full democracy,  
15 equality, and citizenship enjoyed by the residents of the 50 states; and

16       **WHEREAS**, the United States Congress repeatedly has interfered with the  
17 District of Columbia's limited self-government by enacting laws that affect the  
18 District of Columbia's expenditure of its locally raised tax revenue, including  
19 barring the usage of locally raised revenue, thus violating the fundamental principle  
20 that states and local governments are best suited to enact legislation that represents  
21 the will of their citizens; and

1           **WHEREAS**, although the District of Columbia has passed consecutive  
2 balanced budgets since FY1997, it still faces the possibility of being shut down  
3 yearly because of Congressional deliberations over the federal budget; and

4           **WHEREAS**, District of Columbia Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton and  
5 Delaware U.S. Senator Tom Carper introduced in the 117th Congress H.R. 51 and  
6 S. 51, the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, that provides that the State of  
7 Washington, D.C. would have all the rights of citizenship as taxpaying American  
8 citizens, including two Senators and at least one House member; and

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

14           **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the House of the  
15 Twenty-Second Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the Senate  
16 concurring, urge the Members of the United States Congress to enact federal  
17 legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.; and

18           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Commonwealth of the Northern  
19 Mariana Islands supports admitting Washington, D.C. into the Union as a state of  
20 the United States of America; and

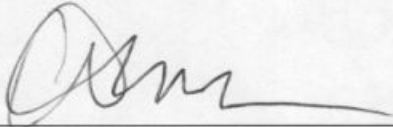
21           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the House of  
22 Representatives and the President of the Senate shall certify and the House Clerk

1 and the Senate Legislative Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this joint  
 2 resolution and thereafter the House Clerk shall transmit a certified copy to the  
 3 Honorable Joe Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala Harris,  
 4 Vice President of the United States; the Honorable Patrick Leahy, President Pro  
 5 Tempore of the United States Senate; the Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority  
 6 Leader of the United States Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority  
 7 Leader of the United States Senate; the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the  
 8 United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority  
 9 Leader of the United States House of Representatives; the Honorable Gregorio  
 10 Kilili Camacho Sablan, U.S. Delegate to the 117th United States Congress; and the  
 11 Honorable Ralph Deleon Guerrero Torres, Governor of the Commonwealth of the  
 12 Northern Mariana Islands.

Prefiled: 5/21/2021

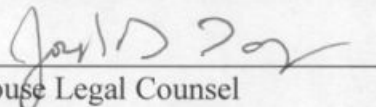
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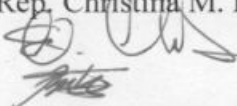
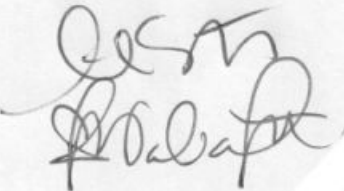
Introduced by:




Rep. Christina M. E. Sablan

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:

  
House Legal Counsel

  
Denita Yaugetmai