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**HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4004**

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**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2024 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Street, Macri, Mena, Reed, Pollet, Nance, Reeves, Slatter, Fitzgibbon, Farivar, Stearns, Cortes, Ramel, Santos, Doglio, Berry, Duerr, Taylor, Alvarado, Callan, Peterson, Entenman, Senn, Ryu, Goodman, Ormsby, Fosse, Simmons, and Stonier

TO THE HONORABLE JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent and petition as follows:

WHEREAS, Since the ratification of the Constitution of the United States on June 21, 1788, the Congress of the United States has had the power to exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such district (not exceeding 10 miles square) as may, by cession of particular states, and the acceptance of Congress, become the seat of the government of the United States; and

WHEREAS, The seat of the government of the United States was accepted by the Congress of the United States on July 16, 1790, and transferred from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the District on December 1, 1800, in accordance with the *Residence Act of 1790*, and was organized into the District of Columbia under the entire control of the Congress of the United States for every purpose of government on February 27, 1801, in accordance with the *District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801*, through which the residents ceased to be considered citizens of a state, no longer entitled to all the rights, guaranties, and immunities of the Constitution of the United States including, but not limited to: The right to appoint at least three electors in the electoral college for president and vice president of the United States, the right to elect two senators and at least one representative in the Congress of the United States, and the right to self-govern and ratify proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States, despite continuing to pay federal taxes, serve in the military, and share all other responsibilities of citizenship of the United States; and

WHEREAS, A Twenty-Third Amendment to the Constitution of the United States was proposed by the Congress of the United States on June 16, 1960, and ratified by a sufficient number of states on March 29, 1961, granting the district constituting the seat of government of the United States the right to appoint a number of electors of president and vice president equal to the whole number of senators and representatives in Congress to which the District would be entitled if it were a state, but in no event more than the least populous state; and

WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States granted a delegate to the House of Representatives from the District of Columbia, who shall have a seat in the House of Representatives, with the right of debate, but not of voting, on September 22, 1970, in accordance with the *District of Columbia Delegate Act*, (after previously establishing the position on February 21, 1871 and repealing the position on June 20, 1874); and

WHEREAS, Enactment of the *District of Columbia Home Rule Act* by the Congress of the United States on December 24, 1973, and ratification of the *Charter Referendum* by a majority of the voters of the District of Columbia on May 7, 1974, reorganized the District of Columbia by granting limited powers of local self-government to an elected 13-member council of the District of Columbia and an elected mayor of the District of Columbia to relieve Congress of the burden of legislating upon essentially local District matters; however, the Congress of the United States granted no local control over the judiciary and reserved the right, at any time, to exercise its constitutional authority as legislature for the District, by enacting legislation for the District on any subject, whether within or without the scope of legislative power granted to the council, including legislation to amend or repeal any law in force in the District; and

WHEREAS, Historically, the Congress of the United States and the president of the United States have interfered with the District of Columbia's local self-government and Home Rule by enacting resolutions disapproving, amending, and repealing actions of the council of the District of Columbia and the mayor of the District of Columbia — including cases concerning the location of chanceries on December 20, 1979, sexual assault reform on October 1, 1981, schedule of heights on March 12, 1991, and a revised criminal code on March 20, 2023; and by imposing budget riders that control and limit the use of locally raised tax revenue, including cases concerning reproductive health services, cannabis use, and statehood advocacy; and

WHEREAS, On multiple occasions, a majority of the voters of the District of Columbia have approved initiatives and referendums expressing their desire for statehood, most recently on November 8, 2016, through which 85.69 percent of voters (1) agreed that the District should be admitted to the union as the State of Washington, D.C., (2) approved the Constitution of the State of Washington, D.C., (3) approved the proposed boundaries between the State of Washington, D.C. and the federal enclave, and (4) agreed that the State of Washington, D.C. shall guarantee an elected representative form of government; and

WHEREAS, Other state and territorial legislatures in the United States have introduced, debated, and passed resolutions that support admitting Washington, D.C. into the union as a state of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, Despite the Constitution of the United States establishing that new states may be admitted by the Congress into this union, and despite the United States House of Representatives passing the *Washington, D.C. Admission Act* on June 26, 2020, and again on April 22, 2021, which would declare Washington, D.C. to be a state of the United States of America, and is declared admitted into the Union on an equal footing with the other states in all respects whatever, the Congress of the United States has yet to grant full statehood to the approximately 700,000 people of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, The state of Washington supports admitting Washington, D.C. into the union as a state of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, The state of Washington opposes efforts by the Congress of the United States and the president of the United States that interfere with local self-government and Home Rule — including federal laws disapproving, amending, and repealing actions of the council of the District of Columbia and the mayor of the District of Columbia as well as federal budget riders that control and limit the use of locally raised tax revenue;

NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the Congress of the United States and the president of the United States enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of Washington, D.C.

BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.