



Reaffirmation of the NFDW 2016 Resolution

Advocating Statehood for the District of Columbia

Whereas, the National Federation of Democratic Women was organized in 1971 as a means of supporting women's voices within the Democratic Party; and continues to today to promote justice and equality for all citizens of the United States of America; and reveres the foundational tenet that Democracy is a birthright for all Americans, including those living in America's capital-- Washington, DC and;

Whereas, the District of Columbia has nearly 80,000 more people living within its borders (660,000) than the entire state of Wyoming and is close in population to six other states: Alaska; Delaware Montana; North Dakota; South Dakota; and Vermont; and Americans living in our nation's capital pay full federal taxes, fight and die in wars, and serve on juries, yet they are still denied voting representation in the U.S. Congress and have no vote in either the U.S. Senate or U.S. House of Representatives; and

Whereas, District residents have always served our nation when called upon to defend democracy in all American wars and engagements; and in fact, the District lost more people in the Vietnam War than 10 other states; and furthermore law-abiding Americans who are residents of the District of Columbia should not be taxed without representation, yet District residents pay \$3.6 billion in federal taxes annually, the second highest amount of federal income taxes per capita in the country and only residents of Connecticut pay higher per capita taxes;

Yet, the Republican-led Congress has placed legislative riders on the District's appropriations bill to insert its own slanted political agenda into the District's local affairs, and these riders have typically been in direct contradiction to the will of District residents and have taken the form of amendments to prevent the District from using its own funds to provide freedom of choice for indigent women and to prevent employers from discriminating against female employees who exercise their freedom of choice; and

Whereas without a vote in Congress, District citizens are denied a voice in decisions that affect every aspect of their daily lives--including public health,

safety, education, economic policies and home ownership; and as a result of the Home Rule Act of 1973, DC residents have a locally-elected mayor and council, but still all locally passed laws as well as DC's local budget must be sent to Congress for review and approval; and at any time, Congress can overrule decisions of the local government and no other jurisdiction in the country is subject to this kind of oversight; and furthermore, the United States of America is the **only democratic nation in the world** to **deny citizens living in its nation's capital representation in its national legislature** or **Congress**;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women hereby recommends passage of legislation to assure Statehood for the residents of the District of Columbia; and until it is achieved, DC be granted full voting representation in Congress and full voting rights in committee on the floor for the DC representative to Congress; and until full representation is achieved that the District of Columbia be granted full budget and governing autonomy, because when local budget control succeeds, DC residents will have greater autonomy over local affairs, thus a stronger local democracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the National Federation of Democratic Women will forward a presentable copy of this resolution to the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the members of both houses of Congress, the nominated Democratic candidate for President and to all NFDC chartered clubs throughout the country.

Submitted by the District of Columbia Federation of Democratic Women

Approved by the NFDW, June 2016; Reaffirmed June 2017

Reaffirmed by the NFDW Membership at the National Convention on June 16, 2018