Since 1801, when Congress moved in, the residents of the District of Columbia have been disenfranchised, with no vote in either House of Congress and limited local control of our laws and budget. After many attempts to gain full rights over the years, DC voters voted overwhelmingly to apply for Statehood. The effort gained momentum and **H.R. 51, the Washington DC Admission Act passed the House in 2020, a historic first!** H.R. 51 and S. 51 are now introduced in the 117th Congress.

The Washington DC Admission Act reserves a federal district for the area centered on the Capitol and the Mall, as required by the Constitution, and establishes a new state of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth, with the rest of the current District land, where 700,000+ people live, work, and play.

The residents of the District of Columbia are just like residents all over the US. We are teachers, shopkeepers, firefighters, nurses, doctors, grocery store clerks, and office workers. We worship in diverse religious houses, play in many parks, and gather in lots of civic associations like garden clubs and scouts, choirs, and community support groups, especially in this time of the coronavirus pandemic.

**There are many reasons we need to be a state:**

- We pay taxes like everyone else but have no say in how to spend them.
- We have more people than 2 states and are on par with 6 others, so we are big enough in population.
- Congress exercises total control over our laws and budget, so decisions made by our limited self-government are regularly ignored and/or overruled by members of Congress.
- No other democratic nation in the world deprives their capital’s citizens of full representation in their national legislatures—only the USA does this.
- Our security is threatened because our Mayor does not have the authority she would have as a governor to call out the DC National Guard—as recent events in Lafayette Square and the Capitol building have highlighted.
- Entering the Union as a state will give us full citizenship for the first time since 1801. We will have Representative(s) according to our population in the House and two Senators in the Senate, like every other state.