



# AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO

**Eric Bunn Sr.**  
*National Secretary-Treasurer*

**Dr. Everett B. Kelley**  
*National President*

**Jeremy A. Lannan**  
*NVP for Women & Fair Practices*

February 6, 2023

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO (AFGE) which represents over 750,000 federal and District of Columbia (D.C.) government employees, I write to urge you to respect the will of D.C. residents on local issues by rejecting disapproval resolutions to nullify bills passed by the democratically elected D.C. Council and its mayor.

The disapproval resolutions being considered would overturn D.C.'s Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022 and D.C.'s Local Resident Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2022. Whatever you feel about the substance of these bills, what is at stake is who should decide these local issues. In every other city in America these kinds of local decisions are up to the local government. Yet because Washington D.C. lacks statehood, Congress has the ability to impose its will and overturn local laws, even when they have the support of the vast majority of D.C. residents. Congress should not interfere with local decisions and usurp the fundamental rights of D.C. residents.

Around 700,000 Americans live in Washington D.C., a larger population than that of two other states. D.C. residents pay federal taxes and serve in the armed forces, but are denied a voice in our government. It is time for Congress to remedy this injustice by passing the D.C. Statehood bill, not further perpetuate this injustice by meddling in local affairs. D.C.'s elected leadership should decide what is best for the people of the District of Columbia on municipal issues.

AFGE urges you to oppose any disapproval resolution that would overturn local decisions by D.C.'s democratically elected government. Should you have any questions regarding AFGE's views, please contact Jeff Cruz at [jeff.cruz@afge.org](mailto:jeff.cruz@afge.org).

Sincerely,

Julie N. Tippens  
Director, Legislative Department

