

Common Cause Opposes H.R. 192; Will “Score” Vote in our Next Democracy Scorecard

May 21, 2024

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Common Cause's more than 1.5 million members, we write in **opposition to H.R. 192**. **We urge a “no” vote and will score this vote in our upcoming Democracy Scorecard**, which will be released in late summer.

For our country's entire history, residents of Washington, DC, have lacked a full voice in government and far too often have been treated as second-class citizens. The people of Washington, DC, have been living without real representation and equal opportunities to participate, to vote, and have their voices fully heard despite that DC residents pay the highest per-capita federal income taxes in the country. The nearly 700,000 residents of our nation's capital pay more in total federal income tax than residents of 22 other states but have no say how those tax dollars are spent. Washington, DC, residents have also fought and died in every war our country has fought in, yet those veterans are denied the freedoms that they have fought, and in some cases died, for. It is far past time for Washington, DC, to be treated equally.

Too often, Congress has tried to meddle in the affairs of Washington, DC. A majority of the District of Columbia's approximately 700,000 residents are Black and Brown, and interference in the District's decision-making has frequently had racial overtones. Congress must respect home rule of the District and its residents, but H.R. 192 is yet another example of Congress interfering in the lives of DC residents. In addition to undermining self-government, H.R. 192 would interrupt the District's 2024 primary elections, in which voting has already begun. Changing election guidelines and eligibility during the middle of an election would be extraordinarily disruptive to the many election workers and volunteers who administer DC's elections.

Instead of considering H.R. 192, the House of Representatives should vote on the Washington, D.C. Admission Act (H.R. 51), which is supported by more than 200 Members of the House of Representatives. This critical legislation, which has passed the House of Representatives twice in the last several years, would provide District residents with the full representation and voice in Congress that they deserve.

We urge a “no” vote on H.R. 192 and urge the House of Representatives to instead pass the Washington, D.C. Admission Act, H.R. 51.

Sincerely,

Virginia Kase Solomón
President and CEO
Common Cause

Since 1970, Common Cause has been working to hold power accountable through lobbying, litigation, and organizing. Our non-partisan, pro-democracy work has helped pass hundreds of reforms at the federal, state, and local levels. We now have 30 state offices and more than 1.5 million members around the country who are working to strengthen our democracy.

