

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS TOBIN, Dunbar, Gray-Jackson, Claman

Introduced: 1/22/25

Referred: State Affairs, Judiciary

A RESOLUTION

1 **Supporting the admittance of Washington, D.C., into the Union as a state of the United**
2 **States of America.**

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 **WHEREAS** art. I, sec. 8, Constitution of the United States, ratified on June 21, 1788,
5 provides Congress the power to "exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over
6 such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the
7 Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States"; and

8 **WHEREAS**, on July 16, 1790, the Residence Act of 1790 was signed, transferring the
9 seat of government of the United States from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the
10 District of Columbia; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on May 15, 1800, Congress adjourned its last meeting in Philadelphia;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, in accordance with the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801, the
14 District of Columbia became organized and under the total control of Congress on
15 February 27, 1801; and

1 **WHEREAS**, through passage of the District of Columbia Organic Act of 1801,
2 residents of the District of Columbia, despite paying federal taxes, serving in the military, and
3 sharing all other responsibilities of citizenship of the United States, were no longer considered
4 citizens of a state or entitled to the rights, guaranties, and immunities of the Constitution of
5 the United States, including the right to appoint the number of electors of President and Vice
6 President of the United States equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to
7 Congress that the District of Columbia would be entitled to if it were a state, but not more
8 than the least populous state, the right to elect two senators and at least one representative to
9 Congress, and the right to self-govern and ratify proposed amendments to the Constitution of
10 the United States; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on June 16, 1960, Congress proposed the Twenty-Third Amendment to
12 the Constitution of the United States, and, on March 29, 1961, the amendment was ratified by
13 a sufficient number of states; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Twenty-Third Amendment to the Constitution of the United States
15 grants the District of Columbia the right to provide citizens of the District of Columbia
16 appropriate rights of voting in national elections for President and Vice President; and

17 **WHEREAS**, on September 22, 1970, in accordance with the District of Columbia
18 Election Act, Congress granted a Delegate to the House of Representatives from the District
19 of Columbia, after previously establishing the position on February 21, 1871, and repealing
20 the position on June 20, 1874; and

21 **WHEREAS** the Delegate was granted a seat in the House of Representatives with the
22 right of debate, but not of voting; and

23 **WHEREAS**, through enactment of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act by
24 Congress on December 24, 1973, and ratification of the Charter Referendum by a majority of
25 the voters of the District of Columbia on May 7, 1974, the District of Columbia was
26 reorganized, and an elected 13-member Council of the District of Columbia and an elected
27 Mayor of the District of Columbia were granted limited powers of local self-government to
28 relieve Congress of the burden of legislating on local matters; and

29 **WHEREAS** Congress granted no local control over the judiciary and reserved the
30 right to exercise its constitutional authority as the legislature for the District of Columbia and
31 to enact legislation for the District of Columbia on any subject, whether within or without the

1 scope of legislative power granted to the Council of the District of Columbia, including
2 legislation to amend or repeal any law in force in the District of Columbia; and

3 **WHEREAS** Congress and the President of the United States have historically
4 interfered with the District of Columbia's local self-government and home rule by enacting
5 resolutions disapproving, amending, and repealing actions of the Council of the District of
6 Columbia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia, including cases concerning the location
7 of chanceries on December 20, 1979, sexual assault reform on October 1, 1981, schedule of
8 heights on March 12, 1991, and a revised criminal code on March 20, 2023, and by imposing
9 budget riders that control and limit the use of locally raised tax revenue, including cases
10 concerning reproductive health services, cannabis use, and statehood advocacy; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on multiple occasions, a majority of the voters of the District of
12 Columbia have approved initiatives and referenda expressing the voters' desire for statehood;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, most recently, on November 8, 2016, 85.69 percent of voters agreed that
15 the District of Columbia should be admitted to the Union as the State of Washington, D.C.,
16 approved the Constitution of the State of Washington, D.C., approved the proposed
17 boundaries between the State of Washington, D.C., and the federal enclave, and agreed that
18 the State of Washington, D.C., shall guarantee an elected representative form of government;
19 and

20 **WHEREAS** other state and territorial legislatures in the United States have
21 introduced, debated, and passed resolutions that support admitting Washington, D.C., into the
22 Union as a state of the United States of America; and

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

30 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports admitting Washington,
31 D.C., into the Union as a state of the United States of America; and be it

1 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature opposes efforts by
2 Congress and the President of the United States that interfere with local self-government and
3 home rule, including federal laws disapproving, amending, and repealing actions of the
4 Council of the District of Columbia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia, as well as
5 federal budget riders that control and limit the use of locally raised tax revenue; and be it

6 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature calls on Congress and the
7 President of the United States to enact federal legislation granting statehood to the people of
8 Washington, D.C.

9 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President
10 of the United States; the Honorable J. D. Vance, Vice President of the United States and
11 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the U.S. House of
12 Representatives; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S.
13 Senators, and the Honorable Nick Begich, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
14 delegation in Congress.