



May 18, 2006

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes-Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Norton:

AARP believes that the right to vote, along with full and fair representation, comprises the most basic of all political rights, and so AARP District of Columbia is pleased to strongly support your bill, the D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006. The exemplary bi-partisan example you and Chairman Tom Davis have demonstrated is to be commended. Your efforts serve to remind everyone that one of the most fundamental civic rights in a democracy – the right to a representative government – rises above partisanship in both importance and principle.

The right of full representation in the U.S. Congress has been denied to more than a half million citizens of the District of Columbia for too long. Although an incremental step toward full representation in both chambers of the U.S. Congress, the D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006 launches a fresh start by granting the elected representative of the District of Columbia a full and permanent vote in the House of Representatives. The greatest advancements of fairness and justice in our nation's history have been accomplished through long struggles. From this perspective, we believe a full vote in the House for DC citizens, in and of itself, merits celebration by all who cherish genuine democracy.

Sincerely,

Mimi Castaldi

Mimi Castaldi
Director
AARP District of Columbia