



Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

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GIVE VOTING RIGHTS TO DC RESIDENTS – SUPPORT H.R. 5388

May 17, 2006

Dear Government Reform Committee Member:

On behalf of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), the nation's oldest, largest and most diverse civil and human rights coalition, we urge you to help provide Americans living in Washington, DC with representation in Congress by supporting H.R. 5388, the "DC Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act."

Washington, DC residents pay federal income taxes, serve on juries, and die in wars to defend American democracy, but they do not have voting representation in the U.S. House of Representatives or the Senate. As we work to extend democracy around the world, we can no longer ignore the need to extend democracy to Americans living in our nation's capital as well.

Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) have introduced H.R. 5388 with strong bipartisan cosponsorship and with the support of the Washington, DC City Council and Mayor. The bill provides Washington, DC residents with a voting member of the House of Representatives for the first time ever, and provides Utah with an additional House seat as well.

Along with the "No Taxation Without Representation Act" (H.R. 398 and S. 195), sponsored by Del. Norton (D-DC) and Sen. Joe Lieberman (D-CT), H.R. 5388 responds to the growing bipartisan interest in extending voting rights to citizens in the District of Columbia. Rep. Davis, Del. Norton, Sen. Lieberman and others are tapping into a strong sentiment throughout the country. A recent national poll conducted by KRS research shows that 82 percent of Americans support full DC representation in Congress.

Some have voiced concern that the bill would force mid-decade redistricting in Utah. However, Utah's congressional delegation and Utah Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr. have recently embraced making the fourth temporary seat "at-large," thereby eliminating the need for redistricting.

Please help bring American democracy to people living in America's capital by supporting H.R. 5388 when it comes before you. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please contact Rob Randhava, LCCR Counsel, at 202-466-6058.

Sincerely,

Leadership Conference on Civil Rights

(*Deceased)



AARP

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Association of University Women

American Jewish Committee

Anti-Defamation League

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)

DC Vote

FairVote

Federally Employed Women

Foundry United Methodist Church

League of Women Voters of the United States

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

National Council of Churches USA

National Council of Jewish Women

National Fair Housing Alliance

National Korean American Service & Education Consortium

People For the American Way

Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Union for Reform Judaism

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations

United Auto Workers

United Food and Commercial Workers International Union

United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

Women of Reform Judaism