



March 15, 2024

Senator Patty Murray, Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Susan Collins, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

Rep. Kay Granger, Chair
House Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room H-307
Washington, D.C. 20515

Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
The Capitol, Room H-307
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of Congress:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge the Appropriations Committees to remove all language from the District of Columbia FY 2024 Appropriations legislation usurping the D.C. Council's local control and imposing the will of the Congress onto D.C.'s nearly 700,000 residents. Legislative budget "riders" go against the intent of the Home Rule Act and our country's founding principle of self-government.

The 118th Congress has witnessed a concerning surge in Congressional interference compared to recent history. We implore Congress to reject these undemocratic elements and, instead, empower the people of D.C. to govern themselves. Over the past 12 months alone, Congress has asserted control over various aspects of local governance, including:

- D.C.'s autonomy to cover reproductive and sexual health care
- The District's Death with Dignity Act



- The ability to regulate legalized cannabis sales
- Qualifications for voting in D.C. local elections
- Methodology for conducting local D.C. elections
- The District's emissions standards
- The District's capacity to issue traffic tickets for illegal right turns on red lights
- Use of cameras for traffic safety
- Renaming a local street

These laws were enacted by D.C.'s elected officials to address concerns that hold significant importance for the nearly 700,000 residents who proudly call Washington, D.C. home. Congressional elements would not only overturn the hard work of our elected officials but also disregard the voices of our citizens.

Americans living in D.C. have no congressional representation to cast votes against this ongoing, relentless attack on local democracy. Until such a time that the residents of the District achieve full equality through Statehood, we implore Congress to grant District residents the autonomy to manage their own affairs, free from external interference or meddling.

The undersigned organizations, collectively representing millions of Americans, urge the Committees to pass the FY 2024 District of Columbia Appropriations legislation without anti-democratic riders that undermine D.C. residents' right to govern themselves.

Sincerely,

1. DC Vote
2. League of Women Voters of the United States
3. League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia
4. American Civil Liberties Union DC
5. Anacostia Coordinating Council
6. Harriet's Wildest Dreams
7. Concerned Citizens DC
8. DC Justice Lab
9. DC Action
10. DC Statehood PAC
11. Long Live GoGo
12. District of Columbia Young Democrats
13. DC Jobs With Justice
14. Good Projects DC
15. The Hustler's Guild



16. Black Voters Matter Fund
17. Neighbors United for DC Statehood
18. DC Fiscal Policy Institute
19. Public Citizen
20. NextGen America
21. The Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda
22. Transformative Justice Coalition
23. Voters of Tomorrow
24. Center for Common Ground
25. Third Act DC
26. Third Act VA
27. Third Act MD
28. The Workers Circle
29. End Citizens United
30. Let America Vote Action Fund
31. Fix Democracy First
32. Advancement Project
33. DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
34. People Power United
35. The Ward 6 Democrats of Washington DC
36. Muslims for Just Futures
37. Sierra Club
38. Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)
39. League of Conservation Voters
40. People For the American Way
41. Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
42. Survivors and Advocates for Empowerment, Inc. (DC SAFE)
43. Interfaith Power & Light
44. Tzedek DC
45. National Organization for Women - Washington DC Chapter
46. Voices for Progress
47. Compassion & Choices
48. People Demanding Action
49. National Women's Political Caucus of Virginia
50. Secure Elections Network
51. Clean Elections Texas
52. Declaration for American Democracy