



June 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
317 Russell Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
235 Cannon House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
322 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
2421 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leaders Schumer and McCarthy:

On June 1st people from across the District of Columbia and surrounding areas came together, peacefully, in Lafayette Square to protest the brutal murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police. They gathered to protest the systemic racism prevalent across the United States that led to that moment. For the afternoon hours people from all walks of life chanted, played music and expressed their views as protected by the First Amendment.

At 6:35pm, that all changed. Federally controlled military and law-enforcement units advanced on those assembled, firing powerful rubber pellets and other munitions into the crowd, without warning and without provocation, pushing the law abiding gathering out of Lafayette Square by force. Military helicopters under federal control were used throughout the evening hovering over DC streets in an attempt to send both debris, and therefore protesters, scattering.

The federal forces took these military actions against the people of DC, without so much as notifying the locally elected mayor, nor the DC Chief of Police. If DC were a state, military actions against the population could not happen without the Governor's involvement.

The same systemic racism that the country is protesting is at the root of the District's lack of full self-government, lack of representation. A majority of color jurisdiction continues to be overseen by a majority white unelected body, denying statehood for reasons of partisanship (as recently acknowledged by the President). This is simply wrong.

The 700,000 parents, siblings, family members, and individuals who call Washington, DC home should not fear ongoing occupation by federal forces. It is wrong on its face, and it is even more egregious given the exclusion of these Americans from representation.

EQUALITY FOR DC

1111 14th Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005 DCVote.org



We, the undersigned organizations, representing millions of Americans, call on Congress to immediately take three steps. First, give local DC officials control over the DC National Guard, in line with each state. Second, revoke the President's authority to federalize the local DC Metropolitan Police Department. Finally, pass H.R. 51, the DC Admissions Act, to make DC a state and to end more than two hundred years of oppression. Statehood is the permanent solution to make the residents of Washington, DC full citizens of the United States and its time has come.

Sincerely,

DC Vote

350 DC

51 for 51

Advocates for Youth

AFL-CIO

African American Ministers In Action

Alliance for a Just Society

Alliance for Justice

American Ethical Union

American Family Voices

Anacostia Coordinating Council

Arm in Arm DC

Audubon Naturalist Society

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network

Campaing to Decriminalize Nature DC

Catholics for Choice

Center for Community Progress

Center for Disability Rights

Center for Popular Democracy

CenterLink: The Community for LGBT Centers

Clean Elections Texas

Clean Water Action

Coalition of Labor Union Women

CODEPINK

Common Cause

Community Change Action

DC Environmental Network

DC NORML

DC Statehood - Yes We Can!

DC Statehood coalition

DC Statehood Green Party

Death with Dignity National Center

Defending Rights & Dissent

DemCast USA

Democracy 21

Democracy for America

Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF)

End Citizens United // Let America Vote Action Fund

Endangered Species Coalition

Free Speech For People

Green Compass LLC

Greenpeace US

Grounded Solutions Network

Health in Justice Action Lab-DC, Northeastern University School of Law

Herd on the Hill

HIPS (Honoring Individual Power & Strength)

Human Rights Campaign

Indivisible

Jewish Council for Public Affairs

Lambda Legal

League of Women Voters of the United States

March For Our Lives

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Minority Veterans of America
Modern Military Association of America
NAACP
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National CAPACD - National Coalition for
Asian Pacific American Community
Development
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Council of Jewish Women
National Employment Law Project
National Equality Action Team
National Fair Housing Alliance
National LGBT Cancer Network
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Organization for Women, DC
Chapter
National Women's Law Center
Neighbors United for DC Statehood
New Progressive Alliance
NOPE Neighbors
Our Revolution DC
Peace Action
People For the American Way

Pride at Work
Public Justice Center
Rachel Carson Council
Revolving Door Project
Rural Coalition
Senior Citizens Matter
Service Employees International Union
32BJ
Sierra Club
Sierra Club, Washington DC Chapter
Stand Up America
Strategies for Youth
Street Pictures
Students for Sensible Drug Policy
The Daniel Initiative
The Democracy Initiative
The Leadership Conference on Civil and
Human Rights
True Colors United
Unite Here Local25
Ward 3 Democrats
Washington Ethical Society
Women's Bar Association of the District of
Columbia
Women's Information Network

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