



September 2, 2025

Senator Susan Collins, Chair, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Senator Patty Murray, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Representative Tom Cole, Chair, House Committee on Appropriations  
Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

Re: Letter re riders on D.C.'s appropriations

Dear Members of Congress:

We, the undersigned organizations, write to express our strong opposition to the anti-democratic policy riders included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriations legislation for the District of Columbia. These riders interfere with local decision-making and violate the spirit and letter of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act. We urge the Appropriations Committees to respect the autonomy of D.C.'s nearly 700,000 residents by removing these provisions from the final appropriations bill.

The District of Columbia is home to more Americans than the states of Wyoming and Vermont. Yet D.C. residents lack full voting representation in Congress and are subjected to an annual appropriations process that results in members of Congress from outside the District attempting to override decisions made by locally elected leaders. These attempts reflect a disregard for democratic self-governance.

This year's House appropriations bill includes a disturbing array of riders that would:

- Repeal or block local laws such as the **Death with Dignity Act, Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Act, and Youth Rehabilitation Amendment Act**
- Restrict D.C.'s authority over public health, including **COVID-19 protections, reproductive health care access, and gender-affirming care**
- Prohibit implementation of laws like the **Safer Streets Amendment Act** and the **Local Resident Voting Rights Act**
- Prevent D.C. from exercising control over **traffic safety, marijuana commercialization, and environmental enforcement**

These are decisions made by D.C.'s duly elected leaders, reflecting the will of its residents, not Congress. Moreover, attempts to force concealed carry reciprocity in D.C., or override protections against strategic lawsuits (SLAPP suits), undermines our democracy and threatens public safety.



These riders are not about fiscal responsibility. They are about control—control over a city that has historically been denied the basic rights of democratic self-governance. Until Congress grants the District of Columbia full equality through Statehood, it must stop treating its residents as second-class citizens.

We urge you to remove these riders from the final bill and pass a clean FY 2026 Appropriations Act for the District of Columbia—one that respects the principles of self-governance and local control. Congress should not use its appropriations power to micromanage the lives of people who do not have a vote in its chambers.

Sincerely,

DC Vote  
ACLU-DC  
Advancement Project  
Asbury United Methodist Church DC  
Black Voters Matter Fund  
Capital Stonewall Democrats  
Chesapeake Climate Action Network Action Fund  
D.C. Chapter of the National Organization for Women  
DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice  
DC Fiscal Policy Institute  
DC Jobs With Justice  
Declaration for American Democracy (DFAD)  
Fair Budget Coalition  
Free DCGOOD Projects  
Get Free  
Indivisible  
Jewish Voice for Peace-DC Metro  
League of Conservation Voters  
League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Long Live GoGo  
Miriam's Kitchen  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
Neighbors United for DC Statehood  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

People Power United  
Planned Parenthood Action Fund  
Reframe Health and Justice  
Rising Organizers  
SEIU Local 500  
Transformative Justice Coalition  
Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia/WBA Foundation  
20/20 Vision