April 14, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW 
Washington, DC 20500

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell  
Russell Senate Office Building, 317 
Washington, DC 20510

Minority Leader Charles Schumer  
Hart Senate Office Building, 322 
Washington, DC 20510

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi  
Cannon House Office Building, 235 
Washington, DC 20515

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
Cannon House Office Building, 326 
Washington, DC 20515

Dear President Trump and Congressional Leadership:

The tyranny of taxation without representation laid upon the people of the colonies by the British Crown was the fuel that sparked the American Revolution. More than two-hundred years have passed since the United States declared our independence from that oppression. Yet, for the more than seven hundred thousand people who call Washington, D.C., home, this unjust system remains.

The CARES Act, recently passed and signed into law, has brought that injustice into stark relief. The people of D.C. pay all the taxes everyone does, and the federal government treats D.C. as a state in hundreds of ways. However, the CARES Act includes D.C. with the territories, which shortchanges the tax-paying residents of Washington, DC out of $725 million of needed aid to fight the coronavirus.

D.C. is not a territory. D.C. bears all the responsibilities of citizenship and deserves the benefits. This is not a time for opponents of D.C.'s efforts to secure Statehood to make a political statement.

Washington, D.C., like every state in the nation, is dealing with unprecedented challenges and, like every state, needs the full support and resources of the federal government to ensure the safety and well-being of D.C.’s residents.

We, the one hundred undersigned organizations, demand that in the next coronavirus relief bill Washington, D.C., be made whole and receive the discretionary funding that was awarded to each state in the CARES Act.

Sincerely,

DC Vote  
51 for 51  
ACLU of DC

AFSCME  
American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Public Citizen
Public Justice Center
Rachel Carson Council
Rural Coalition
SEIU
SEIU 32BJ
Sierra Club
Small Planet Institute
Stand Up! for Democracy in DC (Free DC)
Subcontinental Drift
Sunrise Movement DC
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society
UNITE HERE Local 25
United We Dream Network
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Ward 2 Democrats
Ward 3 Democrats
Ward 7 Democrats
Ward 8 Democrats
Washington Ethical Society
Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
Washington Parks & People