



WHO CARES WHETHER OR NOT  
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
GETS HOME RULE?



WE CARE!!

CORE COMMITTEE FOR DISTRICT  
OF COLUMBIA HOME RULE  
213 1/2 West Main Street  
Durham, North Carolina

March 3, 1965

Dear Friend:

I hope that you are going to write a letter to your congressman urging him to support Home Rule for the District of Columbia, and thus be one of the very few United States citizens who will take just that very small amount of time to help rectify this major long-standing injustice.

Fifty-four percent of the population of Washington, D. C. is non-white. The present Rulers of the City of Washington are the House District Committee, chaired by James McMillan of South Carolina, who is entrenched under the Congressional seniority system along with a representative of almost every other Southern state (two from Mississippi).

The basic problem is not, however, the composition of the Committee but its continued existence as the Provincial Consul appointed by Senatus Publicus America to govern a disenfranchised provincial city. Washington's citizens lost the vote in 1874, as a part of the Reconstruction of the South. Its residents, citizens of the United States, are without an elected city government directly responsible to the people. They thus have no control over their city, their schools, their public service corporations, their very sewers.

The Senate has passed Home Rule bills five times since 1948 only to see the issue die in the House District Committee. No discharge petition has been successful in prying its loose. Why? Because of general grass roots apathy which has allowed Congressmen from areas distant from Washington to neglect taking any interest in the problem.

President Johnson sent his Home Rule message to Congress on the 2nd of February, 1965. The fate of Home Rule will be decided during this session of Congress on the discharge petition which will almost certainly be necessary to pry the bill free of the House District Committee. Thus I ask you to write at once urging your Representative to support the discharge petition, and to support the Home Rule bill when it reaches the floor.

I hope you will write. And if it is not too much trouble, send me a copy. And after you write, won't you please pass this along to someone else whom you think would be receptive? On behalf of Washington's disenfranchised and disadvantaged population, I thank you.

Sincerely,

Carol Ruth Silver, Chairman  
CORE Committee for District  
of Columbia Home Rule



APPENDIX I.: COMPOSITION OF THE HOUSE D. C. AFFAIRS COMMITTEE:

DEMOCRATS:

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>STATE</u>
Ch.	James McMillan	South Carolina
	Thomas G. Abernathy	Mississippi
	Howard W. Smith (Judge)	Virginia
	William Dawson	Illinois
	Abraham Multer	New York
	John Dowdy	Texas
	Basil Whitener	North Carolina
	James Trimble	Arkansas
	B. F. Sisk	California
	Charles Diggs	Michigan
	G. Elliott Hogan	Georgia
	Don Fuqua	Florida
	Donald Fraser	Minnesota
	Carlton Sickles	Maryland
	J. Oliva Huott	New Hampshire
	George Grider	Tennessee
	John Bell Williams	Mississippi

REPUBLICANS:

William Springer	Illinois
Ancher Nelson	Minnesota
Alvin E. O'Konski	Wisconsin
William Harsha	Ohio
Charles McC. Maphias, Jr.	Maryland
Frank Horton	New York
Richard Roudepush	Indiana
Joel Broyhill	Virginia

APPENDIX II.: SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Home Rule in the District of Columbia, October, 1964, monograph, 10¢ per copy from League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia, Room 226, 1346 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington 36, D. C.

President's Message on Home Rule, Document No. 71, House of Representatives, 89th Congress, 1st Session, 2nd February, 1965.

Derthick, Martha, City Politics in Washington, Joint Center for Urban Studies of MIT and Harvard, Harvard University Press, 1962, 239 pp.

*Carol Ruth Silver*  
Carol Ruth Silver, Chairman  
CORE Committee for District  
of Columbia Home Rule