



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260
301-853-4500 TDD 301-853-5300

July 20, 2006

Dear

Pastor,

As you know, city residents pay federal taxes and are accountable to all federal laws, but they do not have voting representation in the U.S. Senate or the U.S. House of Representatives particularly on matters that concern them.

The D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act of 2006 (H.R. 5388) is a federal bill that would give the District of Columbia's non-voting delegate a vote in the Committee of Whole within the U.S. House of Representatives.

H.R. 5388 would not only give a vote to the Democratic District of Columbia, but would also grant an additional representative to Republican Utah based on population growth in that state according to the U.S. Census in 2000. As you might imagine, the bill redresses a serious problem while striking a balance that satisfies both political parties.

The Archdiocese of Washington has not taken an official position on the bill, but it has been generally supportive of voter representation for city residents as a matter of fairness. To that end, we give our general but limited support to organizations that raise this issue within the city.

D.C. Vote, founded in 1988, is an educational and advocacy organization that seeks voting representation in the U.S. Congress. It is currently distributing literature and materials about the overall issue and the bill under discussion. As such, you may place materials in your parish bulletins or within your parish vestibule or other locations. For more information, please call us.

Sincerely In Christ,


Ronald Jackson
Executive Director
D.C. Catholic Conference
301-853-5342

Michael Scott
Michael Scott
Coordinator
D.C. Legislative Network
301-853-5308