



Urban League of
Nebraska

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

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July 30, 2008

Dear Senator Hagel,

The Urban League of Nebraska (ULN) supports voting representation in Congress for Washingtonians. I urge you to vote to allow the DC House Voting Rights Act, S. 1257, to come before the Senate for debate and a vote.

The National Urban League (NUL) has a proud tradition of working to strengthen America by promoting and ensuring equality in civil rights. We work daily to eradicate all barriers to equal participation in all aspects of American society, whether political, economic, social, educational, or cultural.

Like the proud residents of Nebraska, the nearly 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia pay federal taxes, serve on federal juries, and fight and die for our country in war. Yet, they do not have a vote. At this very moment, as we wage a war abroad, the District's men and women are fighting for a principle - representation in the legislature - which we do not extend to them. We believe this country should honor their service and the citizenship of all Washingtonians by providing voting representation in Congress.

The DC House Voting Rights Act offers a unique opportunity to address this injustice by providing DC residents a vote in the House of Representatives. I understand that some senators are concerned about the constitutionality of the bill. To address that concern, the Urban League and other advocates agreed to support a provision that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs added to the bill which would expedite judicial review.

While we hope you will ultimately vote in favor of the bill, at this critical time we need your support to end the filibuster of the measure. Surely, you believe that the Senate should consider a voting rights act that a majority of the Congress supports. For a minority of senators to prevent such consideration indefinitely is unconscionable.

~~You have served Nebraska with distinction in the Senate and have earned your awards from the National Urban League and other organizations. We hope and pray that you will be on the right side of history with regards to the DC House Voting Rights Act.~~

Sincerely,

Thomas H. Warren Sr.
President/CEO
Urban League of Nebraska

Cc: Suzanne Bergeron, Senior Legislative Director National Urban League Institute
Ilir Zherka, Executive Director DC Vote