



National
Urban League

***Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.***

February 14, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

As President and Chief Executive Officer of the National Urban League, I am writing to express our strong support for the *D.C. Fair and Equal House Voting Rights Act (H.R. 328)* and urge you to pass it without delay.

The DC Voting Rights Act (DCVRA) is vote-neutral and bipartisan. The bill pairs a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives for traditionally Democratic Washington, DC with an additional seat for Republican-leaning Utah. The DCVRA was re-introduced in the 110th Congress by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Representative Tom Davis (R-VA), and maintains momentum from strong bipartisan support and two committee hearings in 2006.

The DC Voting Rights Act is a crucial step towards bringing full voting representation in Congress to the nearly 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia – a right enjoyed by all other Americans but long overdue for citizens who reside in our nation's capital. The National Urban League believes that D.C. residents have waited far too long for its first-ever seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

D.C. residents pay taxes, serve on juries, and place their lives on the line by defending our nation during times of war. Our nation can no longer tolerate being the only democratic country in the world that denies voting representation to citizens of the nation's capital. Democracy begins at home.

Let us make our country whole and get this voting rights bill finally signed into law this year. The right to vote must not depend on where you live – and that is why it is finally time that DC had a voting member in the House, and ultimately two voting members in the U.S. Senate. H.R. 328 represents an important first step towards full voting rights for every single DC citizen. Pass H.R.328 now.

Sincerely,

Marc H. Morial
President and CEO
National Urban League