February 8, 2017

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

Recently, some members of Congress have indicated their intent to tamper with the laws of the District of Columbia. These proposed congressional intrusions include bills to: (1) repeal the District’s gun violence prevention measures; (2) ban the use of the District’s local tax dollars to provide reproductive rights-related health services for low-income women; and (3) overturn the Death with Dignity Act, a new law permitting the District’s mentally competent, terminally ill adults to obtain a prescription from their physicians to shorten an unnecessarily difficult dying process.

We understand that people of good faith may disagree on the substantive policy matters involved. In fact, we the undersigned organizations have no collective consensus position on the underlying issues. However, we unite to oppose congressional interference with the District’s self-determination in governance. These federal congressional actions would unjustly undermine important local decisions made by the people of the District of Columbia through their elected leaders.

As is the case with residents of your congressional districts and home states, the District’s residents should have the ability to enact local laws to address pressing local concerns. We urge you to respect local autonomy by opposing these efforts to thwart the will of the District of Columbia’s residents.

Respectfully,

Daniel Solomon
Executive Director

Joined by:
AFSCME Local 1808
Americans for Responsible Solutions
Center for Reproductive Rights
Compassion and Choices
DC Federation of Democratic Women
DC Statehood Green Party
Human Rights Campaign
League of Women Voters of DC
NAACP
National Women’s Law Center
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
School Without Walls Young Democrats
Stand Up! for Democracy in DC - Free DC
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

American Civil Liberties Union of the District of Columbia
Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence united with Million Mom March
Community Justice Reform Coalition
DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice
DC Statehood Coalition
Death with Dignity
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
NARAL Pro-Choice America
Neighbors United for DC Statehood
Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan DC
SEIU 32BJ
UNITE HERE Local 25

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