I applaud Congressman Davis on his efforts to bring voting representation to the District of Columbia through the introduction of “The District of Columbia Fairness in Representation Act (DC FAIR Act).” This bill provides a critical first step on the road to full representation, a right too long denied to District residents. The benefit of the DC FAIR Act is that it offers a politically neutral approach to this historic injustice. Last year the Council of the District of Columbia passed “Sense of the Council in Support of Voting Rights Advancement in the Congress of the United States Emergency Resolution of 2004” that supports the objective of the DC FAIR Act.

While the DC FAIR Act would provide representation in the House of Representatives, I want to be clear that the objective of the Council of the District of Columbia is for full voting representation in both chambers of Congress and therefore, supports the goal of Congresswoman Norton’s bill “No Taxation Without Representation Act of 2005.” Congress is a bi-cameral body and the District would be at a considerable disadvantage with representation in only one chamber of Congress.

Again, I want to thank Congressman Davis on the work he has done in bringing this bill forward for introduction. I, along with the other members of the Council of the District of Columbia look forward to working with you on the passage of the DC FAIR Act.

[check against delivery]