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NAACP DC CONDEMNS CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL RESOLUTION OF DC REVISED CRIMINAL CODE ACT

WASHINGTON, DC – Today for the first time in 30 years, Congress is set to deny DC residents the right to pass our own laws, by passing a Resolution of Disapproval to reject DC’s new criminal code. DC has more than 712,000 residents that pay federal taxes and serve in the armed forces, but for over a century without statehood, the District of Columbia has been denied the right to enact laws without Congressional approval. DC’s lack of statehood and local autonomy has denied its citizens, especially its Black citizens and people of color, of the most basic rights to self-governance and the creation of laws in pursuit of the common good. Today’s Resolution of Disapproval is a congressional vote for second class citizenship.

Akosua Ali, NAACP DC Branch President, stated, “DC’s fight for Statehood is an egregious example of 21st century voter suppression in the nation’s capital. DC’s current criminal code is outdated and in need of revision. The DC Council voted on this legislation and our elected officials should be empowered to enact laws for the people, without Congressional interference. This is the evidence of taxation, without representation. Continuing to deny DC statehood is detrimental to the health, safety and livelihood of the people of the District of Columbia.”

Chris Putney, NAACP DC Political Action Chair, stated, “Make no mistake, the chief issue at hand is DC’s autonomy and whether or not elected leaders support the Democratic rights of the US citizens living in the District of Columbia to self-govern, elect our own leaders and determine our own destiny. Any other justifications for violating DC’s autonomy are merely cynical, and for DC’s citizens destructive, distractions and diversions. Lawmakers of both parties are legitimizing false narratives about DC’s inability to manage its own affairs. Congress must recognize DC residents’ right to self-governance and autonomy by granting the citizens of the District of Columbia full statehood!”

For more information, please email naacp@naacpdc.org or visit www.naacpdc.org.

ABOUT NAACP:

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation’s oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are premier advocates for civil rights in their communities. The mission of NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic quality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

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