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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinion: D.C. statehood no longer is a negotiation. It's a fight.

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D.C. statehood advocates wave flags at a 2021 rally. (Amanda Andrade-Rhoades for *The Washington Post*)

I don't agree with Colbert I. King's assertion in his March 11 op-ed, "[D.C. home rule takes an unnecessary hit](#)," that congressional interference in D.C. in 1995, resulting in the imposition of a fiscal control board, was justified. He pointed out the city at that time was a mismanaged financial mess. Yet many other cities, including Detroit and Philadelphia, were in similar straits and did not warrant a federal takeover. There is no legitimate reason for interfering with Washingtonians' right to self-govern. Giving credibility to any act that violates our right to equal citizenship legitimizes congressional interference and engenders a benign acceptance.

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The author is a United States Senator representing residents of Washington, D.C.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/03/20/dc-statehood-no-longer-is-negotiation-its-fight/>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2023/03/10/dc-home-rule-crime-bill-congress/>