



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

September 30, 2025

TO: Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton
2136 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Urging Congress to Oppose the US House Committee on Oversight & Accountability’s 16 Bills Rolling Back DC Self Governance

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With four of five commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Dicapo, adopted the following resolution by **(4-0-0)**:

WHEREAS, On September 10, 2025, the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability marked up and advanced a package of 16 bills directly targeting laws passed by the duly elected government of the District of Columbia (See *Appendix* for a complete list and description of the bills);

WHEREAS, These bills would significantly roll back the District’s limited self-governance by imposing sweeping changes to the city’s criminal justice system, public safety policies, and core democratic institutions;

WHEREAS, By reshaping the **criminal justice system**, these bills would lower the age for trying youths as adults, mandate cash bail, and impose blanket pretrial detention requirements, policies that have been shown to increase incarceration without improving safety, further destabilizing families and communities;

WHEREAS, By undermining **public safety policies**, the bills would criminalize poverty and homelessness, strip the District of proven traffic-safety tools like red-light cameras and right-turn-on-red restrictions, and impose unfunded mandates that could divert resources from programs that actually reduce crime, creating a projected \$180 million budget shortfall;

WHEREAS, By dismantling **core democratic institutions**, the bills would abolish the Judicial Nomination Commission, remove D.C.’s elected Attorney General, and transfer these powers to presidential appointees, erasing accountability to District voters and eroding the principle of local self-government;

WHEREAS, These bills would degrade democratic accountability by removing crucial checks and balances, including judicial independence and prosecutorial discretion, and by stripping authority from locally elected leaders who are directly accountable to D.C. residents;

WHEREAS, The legislation would impose costly and unworkable mandates on the District, destabilizing the city's budget and limiting the ability of agencies to meet the needs of residents;

WHEREAS, The package reintroduces failed and discredited policies, such as cash bail, that have been shown to punish poverty rather than promote safety;

WHEREAS, Taken together, these measures alter foundational aspects of how laws are made, justice is administered, and civic representation is structured in the District, shifting power away from the people of D.C. and their elected representatives and toward federal lawmakers who are not accountable to D.C. voters;

WHEREAS, These bills represent a dangerous escalation of federal interference that degrades D.C.'s limited autonomy, undermines the right of District residents to self-determination, and threatens the stability and democratic integrity of our local government;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That ANC 2A strongly opposes the package of bills marked up by the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Accountability on September 10, 2025, because they constitute an unprecedented attack on the District's limited autonomy, local self-governance, and democratic accountability.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That ANC 2A condemns the harmful impacts these bills would have on the District's criminal justice system, public safety policies, and core democratic institutions, recognizing that such measures would destabilize families, criminalize poverty, undermine proven safety strategies, and erode the fundamental right of District residents to govern themselves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That ANC 2A urges every member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate to reject these bills and any similar legislation that seeks to strip the District of Columbia of its authority to govern itself.

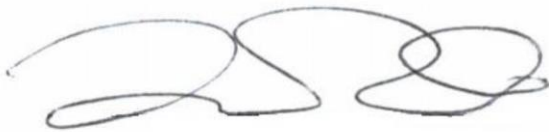
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That ANC 2A reaffirms the right of Washington, D.C.'s more than 700,000 residents—who pay federal taxes, serve in the military, and contribute to the nation's economy—to make decisions about their own community without partisan interference from Congress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That ANC 2A calls on the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the Office of the Attorney General to continue to oppose these bills publicly, and to defend the principle of home rule as foundational to the District's future.

Commissioner Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, representing the name Trupti Patel.

Trupti Patel
Chairperson

CC:

Senate Majority Leader John Thune, United States Senate
Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, United States Senate
Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, US House of Representatives
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, US House of Representatives
Muriel Bowser, Mayor, The District of Columbia
Pamela Smith, Chief, Metropolitan Police Department, The District of Columbia
Lindsey Appiah, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety & Justice, The District of Columbia
Brian Schwalb, Attorney General, The District of Columbia
Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Robert White, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Christina Henderson, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Anita Bonds, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Wendell Felder, Ward 7 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Trayon White, Ward 8 Councilmember of the District of Columbia

APPENDIX: Summary of Bills Marked Up Sept. 10, 2025

Bill Number	Name / Short Title
H.R. 5183 – <i>District of Columbia Home Rule Improvement Act</i> (House Oversight Committee)	Seeks to change the Home Rule Act to require a uniform 60-day congressional review period for all D.C. laws, allow Congress to disapprove specific provisions of D.C. laws or executive orders/regulations, remove the Council’s ability to withdraw legislation once transmitted for review, and tighten Congressional oversight. (Congress.gov)
H.R. 2693 – <i>District of Columbia Electronic Transmittal of Legislation Act</i> (House Oversight Committee)	Would allow the Chair of the D.C. Council to transmit Acts (local legislation) to Congress electronically, instead of only in paper form. (House Oversight Committee)
H.R. 5103 – <i>Make the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful Act</i> (House Oversight Committee)	Creates a “Safe and Beautiful Commission,” mandates programs for removing graffiti, restoring monuments, beautification efforts, and enhanced cooperation between federal & local authorities for enforcement of laws, particularly around public spaces. (House Oversight Committee)
H.R. 5214 – <i>District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Requires mandatory pretrial and/or post-conviction detention for certain violent or dangerous crimes; mandates cash bail for specified offenses posing public safety or order threats. (Congress.gov)
H.R. 5172 – <i>Strong Sentences for Safer D.C. Streets Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Raises the mandatory minimum sentences for certain serious crimes in D.C., including murder, rape, kidnapping, burglary, etc. (Congress.gov)
H.R. 5242 – <i>Repeal of Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act of 2016 and Second Chance Amendment Act of 2022</i> (House Oversight Committee)	Would repeal two D.C. laws that allow for sentence reductions / second chances for people convicted as minors or for lower-level offenses; reduce or remove opportunities for expungement/sealing or reconsideration of sentences under those acts. (House Oversight Committee)
H.R. 5163 – <i>Clean and Managed Public Spaces Act</i> (House Oversight Committee)	Imposes penalties (fine and/or jail) for camping outdoors on public property in D.C. after enactment. (House Oversight Committee)
H.R. 4922 – <i>D.C. Criminal Reforms to Immediately Make Everyone Safer (DC CRIMES) Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Limits “youth offender” status to under-18; requires the D.C. Attorney General to publish juvenile crime statistics; prohibits the Council from making changes to existing criminal liability sentences, among other restrictions. (Congress.gov)
H.R. 5140 – <i>District of Columbia Juvenile Sentencing Reform Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Lowers the age at which a minor may be tried as an adult for certain criminal offenses to 14 years old. (Congress.gov)
H.R. 5181 – <i>SOAR Act Improvements Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Amends the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results (SOAR) program to make changes or enhancements in how school choice scholarships are awarded in D.C. (educational policy rather than directly justice enforcement). (Congress.gov)
H.R. 5107 – <i>Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC (CLEAN DC) Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Repeals the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022; likely restores or relaxes restrictions on policing that had been imposed under that reform. (Congress.gov)

Bill Number	Name / Short Title
H.R. 5143 – <i>District of Columbia Policing Protection Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Establishes standards or expands authority for law enforcement to engage in vehicular pursuits of suspects under certain conditions, plus reporting requirements about such pursuits. (Congress.gov)
H.R. 5125 – <i>District of Columbia Judicial Nominations Reform Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Terminates the D.C. Judicial Nomination Commission and transfers appointment power for D.C. judges to the U.S. President. (Congress.gov)
H.R. 5179 – <i>District of Columbia Attorney General Appointment Reform Act</i> (Congress.gov)	Replaces the current system under which D.C.’s Attorney General is locally elected, and instead provides for the U.S. President to appoint the Attorney General for D.C. (Congress.gov)