

area's electors would be enforceable. The Twenty-Third Amendment provides that the District "shall appoint" electors "in such manner as Congress may direct"; this language is a direct parallel to the Constitution's grant of broad authority to each of the States to appoint and instruct their respective electors. In its recent decision in *Chiafalo v. Washington*, the Supreme Court held that electors do not have discretion to decide how to cast their Electoral College votes, but rather are legally bound to follow the instructions given by their respective states.

As Columbia Law School Professors Jessica Bulman-Pozen and Olatunde Johnson have observed, it follows from the Court's holding in *Chiafalo* that Congress could legally bind any electors to vote in accordance with the overall vote of the Electoral College or the national popular vote, just as the existing enabling statute currently binds them to vote in the Electoral College in accordance with the outcome of the popular vote in the District.

In sum, none of the critics' constitutional objections to the D.C. Admission Act are meritorious; and the contention that a constitutional amendment is required to admit the Commonwealth into the Union is incorrect. The D.C. Admission Act calls for a proper exercise of Congress' express authority under the Constitution to admit new states, a power that it has exercised 37 other times since the Constitution was adopted.

Courts are unlikely to second-guess Congress's exercise of its constitutional authority to admit the Commonwealth into the Union. Apart from the fact that the legal objections to admission of the Commonwealth as a State are without merit, it is also unlikely that the courts will ever consider those objections. As Mr. Dinh has observed, the decision whether to admit a state into the Union is a paradigmatic political question that the Constitution expressly and exclusively assigns to Congress. The Supreme Court has long, and strenuously, avoided adjudicating disputes respecting matters that the Constitution makes the sole responsibility of the coordinate, elected branches.

The remaining objections to Statehood do not concern applicable constitutional law, but rather matters of policy.

For example, some have argued that the District should not be admitted to the Union because it is a single city and have instead proposed that most of the District's territory be retroceded to Maryland. There is, however, no constitutional barrier to a large, diverse city, with a population comparable to that of several existing States, joining the Union. Furthermore, the Maryland retrocession proposal is subject to many of the same supposed constitutional objections raised by those who object to statehood for the District. For example, retroceding the District to Maryland would decrease the size of the remaining federal enclave, which objectors to District Statehood have claimed is constitutionally impermissible. A forced merger of the District and Maryland would also do nothing to address the purported constitutional objection to leaving the residual seat of government with three potential electors, pursuant to the terms of the Twenty-Third Amendment, prior to the Amendment's repeal.

Opponents also argue that Congress should not grant the District statehood because it will lead to a lawsuit. But any court challenge will be without merit, and indeed likely will be dismissed as presenting a political question. We respectfully submit that Congress should not avoid exercising its express constitutional authority to admit the Com-

monwealth into the Union because of meritless threats of litigation.

Sincerely yours,

Caroline Fredrickson, Georgetown University Law Center; Erwin Chemerinsky, University of California, Berkeley School of Law; Stephen I. Vladeck, University of Texas Law School; Franita Tolson, University of Southern California, Gould School of Law; Jessica Bulman-Pozen, Columbia Law School; Leah Litman, University of Michigan Law School; Laurence H. Tribe, Harvard Law School; Paul Smith, Georgetown University Law Center; Geoffrey R. Stone, University of Chicago Law School; Peter Edelman, Georgetown University Law Center; Kermit Roosevelt, University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School; Eric Segall, Georgia State College of Law; Trevor Potter, Campaign Legal Center; Gregory P. Downs, University of California, Davis; Larry Sabato, University of Virginia; Aziz Huq, University of Chicago Law School; Jennifer Hochschild, Harvard University; Neil S. Siegel, Duke University School of Law; Beau Breslin, Skidmore College.

David C. Vladeck, Georgetown University Law Center; Sanford Levinson, University of Texas at Austin School of Law; Ira C. Lupu, George Washington University Law School; Peter M. Shane, Ohio State University Moritz College of Law; Ira P. Robbins, American University Washington College of Law; Michael Greenberger, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law; David Pozen, Columbia Law School; Mark Tushnet, Harvard Law School; Michael C. Dorf, Cornell Law School; Miguel Schor, Drake University School of Law; David S. Schwartz, University of Wisconsin Law School; Caroline Mala Corbin, University of Miami School of Law; Jonathan Askin, Brooklyn Law School; Aziz Rana, Cornell Law School; John Mikhail, Georgetown University Law Center; Richard Ford, Stanford Law School; Richard Primus, University of Michigan Law School; Joseph Fishkin, University of Texas Law School; Kate Masur, Northwestern University; Chris Edelson, American University.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 5107, an undemocratic and paternalistic bill. Free D.C.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I strongly oppose this bill. As a reminder, it would eliminate commonsense criminal justice reforms that have been widely implemented by State and local governments across the country.

Local officials here in D.C. passed these laws. The voters made these decisions, and D.C. should have a right to govern itself.

This bill undermines trust between police and the community they serve and makes us all less safe.

It is undemocratic. It could very well make D.C. not just less safe but also lose trust between its elected government and the people. When the people come together and pass laws, Congress should not overturn those.

Mr. Speaker, again, I urge opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, Congress has a constitutional duty to ensure the District of Columbia is safe and secure. I urge my colleagues to support this critical police reform bill that has the strong support of the National Fraternal Order of Police.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 879, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2015

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TAYLOR) at 8 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.R. 5214;

Passage of H.R. 5107; and

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to:

H.R. 4058; and

H.R. 6019.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 5214) to require mandatory pretrial and post conviction detention for crimes of violence and dangerous crimes and require mandatory

cash bail for certain offenses that pose a threat to public safety or order in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 237, nays 179, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 298]

#### YEAS—237

Aderholt	Gonzales, Tony	Mills
Alford	Gonzalez, V.	Min
Allen	Gooden	Moolenaar
Amodei (NV)	Goodlander	Moore (AL)
Arrington	Gosar	Moore (NC)
Babin	Gottheimer	Moore (UT)
Bacon	Graves	Moore (WV)
Baird	Gray	Moran
Balderson	Greene (GA)	Moskowitz
Barrett	Griffith	Mrvan
Baumgartner	Grothman	Murphy
Bean (FL)	Guest	Nehls
Begich	Guthrie	Newhouse
Bentz	Hageman	Norman
Bergman	Hamadeh (AZ)	Obernolte
Bice	Haridopolos	Ogles
Biggs (AZ)	Harrigan	Onder
Biggs (SC)	Harris (MD)	Owens
Bilirakis	Harris (NC)	Palmer
Boebert	Harshbarger	Panetta
Bost	Hern (OK)	Pappas
Brecheen	Higgins (LA)	Patronis
Bresnahan	Hinson	Perez
Buchanan	Houchin	Perry
Burchett	Hudson	Pfluger
Burlison	Huizenga	Reschenthaler
Calvert	Hunt	Riley (NY)
Cammack	Hurd (CO)	Rogers (KY)
Carey	Issa	Rose
Carter (GA)	Jack	Rouzer
Carter (TX)	Jackson (TX)	Roy
Ciscomani	James	Ryan
Cline	Johnson (LA)	Salazar
Cloud	Johnson (SD)	Scalise
Clyde	Jordan	Schmidt
Cole	Joyce (OH)	Schrier
Collins	Joyce (PA)	Schweikert
Comer	Kaptur	Scott, Austin
Costa	Kean	Self
Crane	Kelly (MS)	Sessions
Crank	Kelly (PA)	Shreve
Crawford	Kiggans (VA)	Simpson
Crenshaw	Kiley (CA)	Smith (MO)
Cuellar	Kim	Smith (NE)
Davidson	Knott	Smith (NJ)
Davis (NC)	Kustoff	Smucker
De La Cruz	LaHood	Sorensen
DesJarlais	LaLota	Spartz
Diaz-Balart	Landsman	Stauber
Donalds	Langworthy	Stefanik
Downing	Latta	Steil
Dunn (FL)	Lawler	Steube
Edwards	Lee (FL)	Strong
Ellzey	Letlow	Stutzman
Emmer	Loudermilk	Suozzi
Estes	Lucas	Taylor
Evans (CO)	Luna	Tenney
Ezell	Luttrell	Thompson (PA)
Fallon	Mace	Timmons
Fedorchak	Mackenzie	Tran
Feenstra	Malliotakis	Turner (OH)
Fine	Maloy	Valadao
Finstad	Mann	Van Drew
Fischbach	Mannion	Van Dwyne
Fitzgerald	Massie	Van Orden
Fitzpatrick	Mast	Vasquez
Fleischmann	McCauley	Vindman
Flood	McClain	Wagner
Fong	McClintock	Walberg
Fox	McCormick	Weber (TX)
Franklin, Scott	McDonald Rivet	Webster (FL)
Fry	McDowell	Westerman
Fulcher	McGuire	Whitesides
Garbarino	Messmer	Wied
Gill (TX)	Meuser	Williams (TX)
Gillen	Miller (IL)	Wilson (SC)
Gimenez	Miller (OH)	Wittman
Golden (ME)	Miller (WV)	Yakym
Goldman (TX)	Miller-Meeks	Zinke

#### NAYS—179

Adams	Garcia (IL)	Norcross
Aguilar	Garcia (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez
Amo	Goldman (NY)	Olszewski
Ansari	Gomez	Omar
Auchincloss	Green, Al (TX)	Pallone
Balint	Grijalva	Pelosi
Barragán	Harder (CA)	Peters
Beatty	Hayes	Petersen
Bell	Himes	Pingree
Bera	Horsford	Pocan
Beyer	Houlahan	Pou
Bishop	Hoyer	Pressley
Bonamici	Hoyle (OR)	Quigley
Boyle (PA)	Huffman	Ramirez
Brown	Ivey	Randall
Brownley	Jackson (IL)	Raskin
Budzinski	Jacobs	Rivas
Bynum	Jayapal	Ross
Carbajal	Jeffries	Ruiz
Carter (LA)	Johnson (GA)	Salinas
Case	Johnson (TX)	Sánchez
Casten	Kamlaeger-Dove	Scanlon
Castor (FL)	Keating	Schakowsky
Castro (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Schneider
Chu	Kennedy (NY)	Scholten
Cisneros	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Scott, David
Clarke (NY)	Larsen (WA)	Sewell
Cleaver	Sherman	Sherman
Clyburn	Latimer	Simon
Conaway	Lee (NV)	Smith (WA)
Correa	Lee (PA)	Soto
Courtney	Leger Fernandez	Stansbury
Craig	Levin	Stanton
Crockett	Liccardo	Stevens
Crow	Lieu	Strickland
Davids (KS)	Lofgren	Subramanyam
Davis (IL)	Lynch	Sykes
Dean (PA)	Magaziner	Takano
DeGette	Matsui	Thanedar
DeLauro	McBath	Thompson (CA)
DeBene	McBride	Thompson (MS)
Deluzio	McClain Delaney	Titus
DeSaulnier	McClellan	Tlaib
Dexter	McCollum	Tokuda
Dingell	McGarvey	Tonko
Elfreth	McGovern	Torres (CA)
Escobar	McIver	Torres (NY)
Espallat	Meeks	Trahan
Evans (PA)	Menendez	Underwood
Fields	Meng	Vargas
Figures	Mfume	Veasey
Fletcher	Moore (WI)	Velazquez
Foster	Morelle	Walkinshaw
Foushee	Morrison	Wasserman
Frankel, Lois	Moulton	Schultz
Friedman	Mullin	Waters
Frost	Nadler	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Neal	Williams (GA)
Garcia (CA)	Neguse	Wilson (FL)

#### NOT VOTING—17

Barr	Doggett	Rulli
Carson	Hill (AR)	Rutherford
Casas	Kennedy (UT)	Sherrill
Cherfilus-	LaMalfa	Swalwell
McCormick	Nunn (IA)	Tiffany
Cohen	Rogers (AL)	Womack

□ 2039

Messrs. LARSON of Connecticut, NORCROSS, and Mrs. BEATTY, changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote because I was in a legislative meeting which ran over. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 298.

Stated against:

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and missed Roll Call No. 298. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 298.

#### COMMON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN DC ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on passage of the bill (H.R. 5107) to repeal the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 enacted by the District of Columbia Council, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 233, nays 190, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 299]

#### YEAS—233

Aderholt	Fry	Maloy
Alford	Fulcher	Mann
Allen	Garbarino	Massie
Amodei (NV)	Gill (TX)	Mast
Arrington	Gillen	McCaul
Babin	Gimenez	McClain
Bacon	Golden (ME)	McClintock
Baird	Goldman (TX)	McCormick
Balderson	Gonzales, Tony	McDowell
Barr	Gooden	McGuire
Barrett	Goodlander	Messmer
Baumgartner	Gosar	Meuser
Bean (FL)	Gottheimer	Miller (IL)
Begich	Graves	Miller (OH)
Bentz	Gray	Miller (WV)
Bergman	Greene (GA)	Miller-Meeks
Bice	Griffith	Mills
Biggs (AZ)	Grothman	Min
Biggs (SC)	Guest	Moolenaar
Bilirakis	Guthrie	Moore (AL)
Boebert	Hageman	Moore (NC)
Bost	Hamadeh (AZ)	Moore (UT)
Brecheen	Haridopolos	Moore (WV)
Bresnahan	Harrigan	Moran
Buchanan	Harris (MD)	Murphy
Burchett	Harris (NC)	Nehls
Burlison	Harshbarger	Newhouse
Calvert	Hern (OK)	Norman
Cammack	Higgins (LA)	Nunn (IA)
Carey	Hill (AR)	Obernolte
Carter (GA)	Hinson	Ogles
Carter (TX)	Houchin	Onder
Ciscomani	Hudson	Owens
Cline	Huizenga	Palmer
Cloud	Hunt	Panetta
Clyde	Hurd (CO)	Pappas
Cole	Issa	Patronis
Collins	Jack	Perez
Comer	Jackson (TX)	Perry
Crane	James	Pfluger
Crank	Johnson (LA)	Reschenthaler
Crawford	Johnson (SD)	Riley (NY)
Crenshaw	Jordan	Rogers (AL)
Cuellar	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (KY)
Davidson	Joyce (PA)	Rose
Davis (NC)	Kaptur	Rouzer
De La Cruz	Kean	Roy
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Ryan
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Scalise
Donalds	Kennedy (UT)	Schmidt
Downing	Kiggans (VA)	Schrier
Dunn (FL)	Kiley (CA)	Schweikert
Edwards	Kim	Scott, Austin
Ellzey	Knott	Self
Emmer	Kustoff	Sessions
Estes	LaHood	Shreve
Evans (CO)	LaLota	Simpson
Ezell	LaMalfa	Smith (MO)
Fallon	Langworthy	Smith (NJ)
Fedorchak	Latta	Smucker
Feenstra	Lawler	Sorensen
Fine	Lee (FL)	Spartz
Finstad	Lee (NV)	Stauber
Fischbach	Letlow	Stefanik
Fitzgerald	Loudermilk	Steil
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Steube
Fleischmann	Luna	Strong
Flood	Luttrell	Stutzman
Fong	Mace	Suozzi
Fox	Mackenzie	Taylor
Franklin, Scott	Malliotakis	Tenney