

September 2, 2025

Mayor Muriel Bowser
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004

Mayor Bowser,

We write to you as a coalition of local DC community-based organizations and national organizations based here in the District committed to the autonomy, freedom and dignity of all DC residents out of grave concern for the sentiment you expressed at last week's press conference. The past three weeks have represented a clear threat to the people of DC, our security and the self-governance of our city that should be the 51st state.

We are deeply concerned that any elected official, let alone the leader of our city, would express appreciation for the federal intrusion that has been terrorizing our neighbors and disrupting our communities over the past three weeks. Every day, residents are being taken off our streets by masked and unmarked federal agents. Our neighbors – your constituents – are afraid to walk their children to school. Young people are being harassed simply trying to navigate their city amidst rapidly changing guidelines for how to stay safe.

This federal overreach has effectively sanctioned racial profiling and enables unchecked violations of civil and constitutional rights. And none of this intervention is intended to keep us safe. The pretext for this overreach is crime, but it is really about power and control—the latest in a long series of attacks on DC's self-determination and on the freedom of its residents, particularly those who are immigrants, Black, brown, or experiencing poverty.

Your talk about crime fighting and crime rates only lends credence to the federal overreach, invites future attempts to degrade our home rule, and feeds a narrative that dehumanizes our neighbors and puts them at greater risk.

Every day our organizations are working with thousands of committed DC residents doing their part to keep ourselves safe and protect our neighbors. We need District leaders to have our back, not undermine the work we're doing to fight back against this unprecedented intrusion. As you spoke in your press conference, committed advocates were doing the work to ensure Congress will stand up to the president and not authorize

any further intervention. Your words, and the actions of our police department to cooperate with this federal intrusion, undermine that work to keep DC free.

We demand that you immediately denounce the attempted federal takeover, insist on an end to the federal surge, defend DC residents from abuse by police and ICE, enforce DC's Sanctuary Values Act and demand that DC's autonomy be respected. 80 % of DC residents oppose this federal presence. We ask you to stand with them, not with Trump.

We demand the same of all elected leaders and hope that you will find the courage to step up to this moment. History is calling upon you to lead our people, not to cower in the face of an authoritarian who does not have our best interests in mind. There is no strategy in appeasement, only the reality that the more we give, the more they will take.

This is a moment for moral clarity and leadership. Your words last week betrayed DC values and stand at odds with the vast majority of DC residents who resist this federal intrusion and want you to stand up for our safety and autonomy.

Sincerely,

Act Now: End AIDS (ANEA) Coalition	Claudia Jones School for Political Education	Community Services Agency of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO
All Souls Church, Unitarian	Clean Air Solidarity	
ANC7C06	Clearinghouse on Women's Issues	Covenant Baptist United Church of Christ
Ayuda		
Black Swan Academy	Cleveland Park Congregational Church	DC Action
Bread for the City	Rev. Ellen Jennings, Pastor of Cleveland Park Congregational UC,	DC Fiscal Policy Institute
Capital Resource Connections		DC for Democracy
CARE Anacostia	CODEPINK	DC for Palestine
Chesapeake Climate Action Network	Colectivo de Familias Migrantes	DC Jail & Prison Advocacy Project
Christ Congregational Church	Communist Party of the District of Columbia	DC Jobs with Justice
	Community of All People UCC	DC Justice Lab
		DC LGBTQ+ Budget Coalition

DCPS PTO Executive Member, JBES	John Lewis Parent, Staff and Community Organization	Peoples Congregational United Church of Christ Washington, DC
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund	Langley Elementary PTO	Pilgrim United Church of Christ
Diverse City Fund	League of Women Voters of the District of Columbia	Plymouth Congregational Church United Church of Christ
DMV Bund	MD DC Alliance for Retired Americans	Positive Force DC
EmpowerEd	Metro DC DSA	RAIS Popular
Fair Budget Coalition	Metropolitan Washington Council	Rebuilding Independence My Style
First Congregational UCC Church of Washington	More Than Our Crimes	RebuildingTheCommun7ty
First Congregational United Church of Christ	Mother's Outreach Network	Redemption Songs Unlimited
First Shift Justice Project	Movement Matters	Reframe Health and Justice
Food Justice DMV	Muslims for Just Futures	Reparation Education Project
Free DC	MVS Educational Services, LLC	Restaurant Opportunities Center of Washington DC
Friendly Design Co	National Cannabis Festival	Right to Life A40
Grassroots DC	National Domestic Workers Alliance - DMV Chapter	Rising Organizers
Green New Deal for DC	National Organization for Women DC Chapter	Save Chinatown Solidarity Network
HIPS	Neighbors United for DC Statehood	Seeding Stories / Sembrando Historias
IBEW Local 26 Retired Members Club	People for Fairness coalition	SMYAL
INNER LIGHT MINISTRIES UCC		Solid State Books
IUPAT		
Jews United for Justice		
Jewish Voice for Peace-DC Metro		

Spur Local

Who Speaks For Me

Sunrise Movement DC

Zero Hour

Task Force for Democracy

Teaching for Change

The Community Church of
Washington, DC UCC

The Fellowship of
Reconciliation USA-DMV

The Festival Center

The Taifa Group

The Task Force for
Democracy

Trans-Latinx DMV

Treatment Action Group

United Church of Christ

Uri L'Tzedek

Voices Unbarred

Ward 1 Mutual Aid

Ward 5 mutual aid

Ward 8 Woods
Conservancy

Washington Interfaith
Network (WIN)

Washington Legal Clinic
for the Homeless

We Are Family Senior
Outreach Network