AMENDMENT TO RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 116-7
OFFERED BY MR. GOSAR OF ARIZONA

Strike section 2201 and insert the following:

SEC. 2201. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO DISTRICT OF
COLUMBIA STATEHOOD.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The District of Columbia was granted limited autonomy in 1973 by Congress, who at the time did not wish to intervene in the day-to-day governance of the city.

(2) This grant of limited autonomy by Congress may be revoked by Congress at any time.

(3) Article 1, Section 8, Clause 17 of the Constitution provides Congress with the exclusive jurisdiction over the District of Columbia.

(4) This clause was included for specific reasons, notably the fact that the operation of the seat of the Federal Government of the United States, whose laws affect approximately 330 million Americans, should not be impeded by local ordinances, actions, or taxation.

(5) The Framers of the Constitution had good reason for this concern, having witnessed the reluc-
tance of local authorities to police disorderly conduct
by protestors in June of 1783, conduct that forced
the adjournment of the Congress and the flight of
its members into neighboring States.

(6) James Madison wrote in Federalist No. 43:
“The indispensable necessity of complete authority
at the seat of Government carries its own evidence
with it. It is a power exercised by every Legislature
of the Union, I might say of the world, by virtue of
its general supremacy. Without it, not only the pub-
lic authority might be insulted and its proceedings
be interrupted, with impunity; but a dependence of
the members of the general Government, on the
State comprehending the seat of the Government for
protection in the exercise of their duty, might bring
on the national councils an imputation of awe or in-
fluence, equally dishonorable to the Government, and
dissatisfactory to the other members of the confed-
eracy.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
gress that—

(1) the Congress is the proper, constitutionally-
mandated sovereign over the District of Columbia
and that increasing congressional oversight of the
District is a wise course, in particular improving the
disapproval mechanisms of the Home Rule Act to ensure that poor municipal ordinances made by the congressionally-provided, and congressionally-revocable authority provided to Washington, D.C.’s municipal government can be expeditiously overturned by the Congress;

(2) the District of Columbia should never become a State; and

(3) statehood for Washington, D.C. would require a constitutional amendment.