

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committees  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY (SELF-GOVERNMENT) AMENDMENT (DISALLOWANCE AND AMENDMENT POWER OF THE COMMONWEALTH) BILL 2010**

Dear Sir/Madam

On the topic of the Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Amendment (Disallowance and Amendment Power of the Commonwealth) Bill 2010, I provide the following comments,

The Australian Capital Territory is quickly becoming the most under-represented population in Australia. With fewer Senators and Members to represent the territory in the Australian Parliament, especially when compared with states of a similar size, our vote is worth so much less than that of other Australians.

While I support states rights, there is no logical or sensible reason for these rights not to extend to territories.

This is not an issue of political partisanship. This decision should not be based on Senators or Members making assumptions about what territory legislation might or might not be passed now or in the future. The decision should be based on every Australian's right to elect a government at the state or territory level who can create laws appropriate for that state or territory, without interference from another government.

It would be absurd to suggest that state legislation could be overturned by the Commonwealth, so why then is it still acceptable that a century-old and outdated law can do just that to territory legislation?

It is offensive to suggest that some 590,000 people in the ACT and Northern Territory cannot have the same rights as other Australians.

I firmly believe that any interference in territory matters is abhorrent, and I support this Bill which takes great steps towards removing interference in the business of a democratically elected legislature.

Thank you for considering my views.

Yours sincerely

