



Resolutions and Platform Committee Report

June 8, 2019 SEC Meeting

CIVIL JUSTICE/RIGHTS

RESOLUTION REQUIRING GENDER-NEUTRAL SIGNAGE FOR SINGLE-OCCUPANCY BATHROOM FACILITIES

WHEREAS, an increasing number of government entities such as Washington, D.C.; New York City; Philadelphia, PA; and the states of California and Vermont have adopted regulations requiring gender-neutral designations of single-occupancy bathrooms; and

WHEREAS, cost would be limited to changing the signage—e.g., to “Toilet” instead of “Men” or “Women”; and

WHEREAS, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) recommends that all single-occupancy units be designated gender-neutral; and

WHEREAS, this requirement would apply only to single-occupant bathrooms; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that any entity that owns or leases a structure open to the general public, including but not limited to retail establishments and county-owned buildings, that currently has or at any time establishes one or more single-occupancy bathroom facilities for public use, shall provide gender-neutral signage for such facilities identifying a facility without indicating a gender, such as “Restroom,” “Bathroom,” or “Toilet,” or symbols indicating the facility’s availability for use by any person, regardless of gender or gender identity.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR PRETRIAL JUSTICE AND THE END OF CASH BAIL

WHEREAS, judicial decisions about release or detention of defendants before disposition of criminal charges have a significant, and

sometimes determine active, impact on thousands of justice-involved people and communities every day; and

WHEREAS, many of those incarcerated pretrial do not present a substantial risk of failure to appear or a threat to public safety, but do lack the financial means to be released; and

WHEREAS, the incarceration of individuals who cannot afford money bail without meaningful consideration of other alternatives is a violation of due process and equal protection; and

WHEREAS, defendants who are detained are more likely to plead guilty, receive more severe sentences, get less attractive plea bargain offers, and are more likely to become reentry clients as a result of their pretrial detention, regardless of charge or criminal history; and

WHEREAS, race and gender influence whether defendants are released on recognizance and the amount of money set for bail, which has long-lasting consequences throughout the justice system; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based pretrial assessment of a defendant’s likelihood to appear in court and remain arrest free while awaiting trial can increase successful pretrial release outcomes and diminish racial disparities without imposing unnecessary financial conditions, impairing the judicial process, or jeopardizing public safety; and

WHEREAS, a policy of least restrictive conditions can greatly improve pretrial outcomes by providing appropriate and tailored supports for those awaiting trial and adjusting levels based on individual compliance or non-compliance;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party shall support policy to:

- Promote the use of citations in lieu of arrest and strategies that deflect and divert people from the criminal justice system when appropriate;
- Promote and support the adoption of evidence-based locally validated pretrial assessment and management in making the bail determination;
- Eliminate practices that cause people to remain incarcerated solely because they cannot afford to pay for their release;
- Call for the elimination of commercially secured bonds at any time during the criminal justice process;
- Call for the shift from secured to unsecured bonds at any time during the pre-trial phase, as is the stated statutory preference under North Carolina law;
- Promote and support the use of least restrictive graduated conditions of release which can be adjusted / the compliance or non-compliance of the person;
- Call for the conduct of a preventative detention hearing with full due process protections so that only people who are eligible may be detained;
- Promote training and development that addresses how using best practices and identifying sources of implicit bias can reduce racial, ethnic, and gender disparities; and
- Direct that elected district attorneys pursue the least restrictive release conditions and only seek or argue in favor of secured bonds in cases where a pretrial risk assessment indicates that such detention is necessary to protect the public and/or to ensure the defendant attends his or her court dates.
- Provide funding for staff at all levels of the court system to effectively and efficiently enact the above.

- Increase funding for our Office of Indigent Defense Services to appropriate levels to satisfy our State and Federal constitutional mandates, and the Durham Democratic Party supports the National Advisory Commission recommended caseload guidelines for Defender Services.
- End privately run detention centers in the State of North Carolina.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RATIFICATION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first proposed in 1923 to affirm that women and men have equal rights under the law;

WHEREAS, the ERA was passed by Congress in 1972 but is still not part of the U.S. Constitution because the required 38 States have not yet ratified the ERA; and

WHEREAS, it is a moral imperative that people of all genders be afforded equal rights as men in our Constitution;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon City Councilors, County Commissioners, and other local representatives to advocate with our State Legislators and United States Congressional Delegation to support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, which will guarantee that equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of gender and that Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the ERA.

HUMAN RIGHTS

RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE PROTECTION OF HIPAA LAWS TO TRANSGENDER NORTH CAROLINIANS

WHEREAS, transgender North Carolinians face extreme hardship in gaining employment, as is borne out by the results of the 2015 Trans Study, which showed that transgender North

Carolínians experience unemployment at three times the rate of other citizens; and

WHEREAS, as a result the rate of poverty amongst transgender North Carolínians is twice as high as for the general population of North Carolina, as shown by the results of the 2015 US Trans Study; and

WHEREAS, transgender persons are forced to reveal former names on job applications, forcing them to give employers a legal reason to discriminate against them; and

WHEREAS, per North Carolina General Statute § 101-5 name change applicants are required to pass a state as well as national criminal background check, and such persons are also required to submit their fingerprints for this purpose, thus obviating the need for an employer to have access to a transgender person's previous names for the purposes of a criminal background check; and

WHEREAS, the other States of the United States have similar provisions in their statutes concerning name changes; and

WHEREAS, transgender people thus forced to divulge former names are deprived the protection of HIPAA laws to keep their health information (as it relates to their transgender status) private and protected; and

WHEREAS, this disadvantages transgender people in the employment market, thus hampering them in one of life's major activities, and hamper their ability to integrate into, and become law-abiding, self-sustaining citizens of this State; and

WHEREAS, there is already bipartisan support for "Ban the Box" legislation, so that those convicted of crimes are able to reintegrate into our society, particularly in regards to employment; now

THEREFORE BE IT THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges the North Carolina General Assembly to

enact "Ban the Box" legislation which will allow for persons who changed their names as a result of gender change, or for reasons of personal safety (e.g. victims of domestic violence,) to legally leave blank any question about their former name on any job application of any employer doing business in North Carolina.

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SECURITY & LAW ENFORCEMENT

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR REASONABLE GUN CONTROL AND BANNING MILITARY ASSAULT TYPE RIFLES

WHEREAS, safety training, background checks, age limits are positive factors that do not impede 2nd amendment rights;

WHEREAS, the majority of U.S. citizens support reasonable factors that can allow gun ownership in a safer manner;

WHEREAS, securing accurate data is imperative which requires the U.S. Congress to appropriate funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to conduct research on gun violence and maintain the 1996 Dickey Amendment which prohibits CDC funds to be used for lobbying;

WHEREAS, private studies and research indicate that states with less restrictive laws have more gun violence than those states with more restrictive laws, thus it can be extrapolated that tighter background checks, safety training; age requirements, and liability laws can impact these outcomes in a positive manner;

WHEREAS, collected numbers shows that there are approximately 40,000 gun related deaths in 2017; of those 60% are suicides and 2% are accidental;

WHEREAS, mass shootings due to large quantity of ammunition has a taken unrivaled toll on our country, a number of the shootings taking place in our schools;

WHEREAS, there is no discernible sporting or self-defense justification for military-style assault rifles,

WHEREAS, the lethality of these weapons has been demonstrated in multiple mass shooting events;

WHEREAS, the weapon of choice of mass shootings is an assault weapon, with high capacity clips and in one case a “bump stock”, none of these (assault weapons, high capacity clips, or “bump stock”) are constitutionally protected;

WHEREAS, evidence shows that Child-Access Prevention laws decrease both suicides among children and accidental death/injuries; evidence also indicates that background checks reduce

gun violence while Stand-Your -Ground laws increase violent crimes;

WHEREAS, studies show that homes with guns show a 41% higher chance of homicide; a 224% increase in the chance of suicide; 2 times the chance of a member of the household being murdered – this evidence shows that more guns do not mean more safety; and

WHEREAS, gun violence or accidents cannot totally be prevented, reasonable actions can be taken to reduce the amount of gun violence;

THEREFORE BE IT THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the N.C. General Assembly to increase the minimum age of persons eligible for gun ownership - to be determined with committee input, create gun safety training with increased practice hours; and require households with guns to purchase and maintain liability insurance due to guns being listed as deadly weapons such as we do with automobiles;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party requests our N.C. General Assembly, U.S. Congressional Representatives, along with our U.S. Senators, provide adequate funding for gun violence research for the CDC;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the N.C. General Assembly and our U.S. Representatives and Senators to support legislation that requires background checks on gun purchasers, that closes the gun-show loophole by requiring background checks on all gun sales, and that advocates for Child-Access Prevention laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to pass legislation banning the sale and possession of military-style assault rifles in North Carolina.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PROHIBITION OF FIREARMS ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES

WHEREAS, 113 people were killed or injured in school shooting in the United States in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Republican Party and the NRA have sought to increase the presence of firearms on school campuses by repealing K-12 school gun-free legislation and arming staff; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina legislature recently expanded gun rights by permitting loaded weapons to be carried in vehicles on school property; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on North Carolina legislators to sponsor or support bills that close the loophole permitting loaded weapons to be carried onto North Carolina college and university campuses in vehicles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina calls on Representative David Price and other members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to vigorously oppose efforts to repeal gun-free school legislation and to pursue the prohibition of firearms on all school, college and university campuses nationwide.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE TESTING OF ALL SEXUAL ASSAULT KITS

WHEREAS, North Carolina has one of the largest backlogs of unsubmitted sexual assault kits in the nation at 15,000 untested kits; and

WHEREAS, Sexual assault kits are a crucial part of solving criminal cases; and

WHEREAS, Justice cannot be served until survivors' kits are tested promptly; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The North Carolina Democratic Party requests that the North Carolina Attorney General and all relevant policymaking entities allocate full funding to test

backlogged sexual assault kits in the state of North Carolina; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The North Carolina Democratic Party requests that all backlogged sexual assault kits are tested immediately; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The North Carolina Democratic Party requests that policies are set in place so that all future sexual assault kits are tested promptly; and,

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The North Carolina Democratic Party advocates for policies and budget measures from all levels of local and state government that ensures all sexual assault survivors can be confident in the prompt testing of sexual assault kits.

Resolution to Require Post Election Tabulation Risk-Limiting Audits

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party is concerned with the inadequacy of postelection tabulation audits performed by North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the current post election tabulation audit does not provide a statistically significant assurance that all races have been tabulated accurately as stated in North Carolina law; and

WHEREAS, prior to an election one predetermined and pre-announced race is chosen to be audited; and

WHEREAS, hand/eye audit of 2% of precincts does not give a statistically significant assurance that the other 98% of precincts were tabulated correctly; and

WHEREAS, hand/eye audit of 2% of precincts does not give a statistically significant assurance that any other race on the ballot was tabulated correctly; and

WHEREAS, risk-limiting audits require that fewer ballots need to be audited; and

WHEREAS, risk-limiting audits are more cost effective than the current 2% precinct hand-eye audits.

WHEREAS, risk-limiting audits provides a statistically significant assurance that the tabulation results are correct; and

THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the NC General Assembly to require by law that postelection risk-limiting audits be performed; and

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the NC General Assembly to designate the North Carolina State Board of Elections with the duty to implement risk-limiting audits in order to assure that the election results were tabulated accurately.

Resolution to Protect Election Integrity in North Carolina

WHEREAS, the integrity and confidence of the voting process – including the accurate casting, recording and counting of votes - is essential to democracy; and

WHEREAS, multiple vendors and platforms with lower standards elevates risks and increases costs, removing the ability for counties to work with each other to help with equipment, upgrades, software or firmware questions, training and legal issues.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that 2nd Congressional District Democratic Party requests all appointed SBE members to do the following:

- 1). consider the financial relationships between the election system vendors and the investors who finance them in their decisions to certify election system vendors – and only certify those vendors who provide this information to the SBE; and
- 2). consider the major advantages of sticking with the one vendor they have used since 2006; and

- 3). only certify election systems that use pre-printed paper ballots that can be marked by hand or by an approved ballot marking device and that they not certify any election system which makes ALL in-person voters use a ballot marking devices and/or that prints a bar-code/QR code ballot; and

- 4). require all scanners to be programmed to notify voters of both over- and under-votes, and give them the chance to make any corrections to an under-voted ballot (or voiding the over-voted ballot and getting a new ballot) before depositing their ballot into the scanner; and

- 5). require vendors to certify there are no bots or microchips on any voting systems (machines, printers, scanners, or peripheral computers) used in running our elections under same penalties for uncertified firmware/software under the current law; and

- 6). require vendors to certify none of their voting machines or ballot marking devices have any wireless communications ability whatsoever; and

- 7). require all CBE computers hooked up to voting machines or that report totals to the SBE are kept separate from all other CBE computers and not used for any other purposes (e-mail, surfing the net); and

- 8). select early and election day voting sites where proper temperature and humidity can and must be maintained – starting 24 hours before voting begins and throughout all voting; and

- 9). require all paper ballots, scanners and ballot marking devices are stored and used within proper temperature and humidity specifications; and

- 10). supply temperature and humidity monitors at each and every voting location that must be easily accessible by staff (poll workers and judges) and observers; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges all appointed CBE members to do the following:

- 11). any county using any DRE touchscreen voting machines immediately purchase the currently certified ES&S DS200 digital scanner and AutoMARK BMD loaded with the Unity software/firmware for each in-person early-voting and precinct voting site to in enough time to use them in the Fall 2019 elections; and
- 12). any county currently using the M100 optical scanners immediately purchase the currently certified ES&S DS200 digital scanner loaded with the Unity software/firmware for each in-person early-voting and precinct voting site to in enough time to use them along with their AutoMARK BMDs in the Fall 2019 elections; and
- 13). Test the new EVS 5.2.2.0 software/firmware in one precinct per county in the Fall 2019 elections – thus satisfying the testing requirements PRIOR to making the decision to upgrade to the new software/firmware; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NCDP urge our elected members of the NC General Assembly to consider amending our current election law to allow for certification of ONE sole statewide election system vendor and using only pre-printed paper ballots in future years.

Resolution in Support of Non-Partisan Districts
WHEREAS, Current North Carolina districts are politically engineered to the extent that it endangers the constitutional right of “one person, one vote,” therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED The Democrats of North Carolina endorse non-partisan districting at all levels of government, beginning first with both houses of the North Carolina General Assembly.

ECONOMY SECTION

Resolution in Support of Placing Tariffs in the Control of Congress

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration and Congressional Republicans have launched a disastrous trade war that will have devastating effects on NC's rural communities; &

WHEREAS, Canada, Mexico, and China have all announced retaliatory tariffs on US farmers and goods in retaliation for Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs. If the trade war escalates, rural NC will be hit even harder. Retaliatory tariffs on aluminum and steel could threaten manufacturing profits, hurting hundreds of thousands of workers across NC and passing expensive costs onto consumers; &

WHEREAS, NC farmers depend on foreign markets to stay afloat. The state produces the most tobacco in the country and is the second largest pork producer in the US China and Mexico are two of the state's top trading partners for agricultural goods. NC agricultural leaders worry about what the tariffs could cost the state's biggest industry; &

WHEREAS, the burden of Trump's policy is on the American taxpayer with a proposal for \$12B in emergency aid for farmers hurt by tariffs; & therefore be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCDP calls on our state legislators to address the “national security” aspect of trade by passing the appropriate laws that will put tariffs under Congress', not the President's.

Repeal Sales Tax on Labor

WHEREAS, prior to March 1, 2016, there was no NC sales tax on the hard-earned wages of those individuals who toil in some of the dirtiest, worst paying, and most hazardous service jobs in the state; &

WHEREAS, were it not for the repair, maintenance, and installation (RMI) services provided by the labors of these individuals, automobiles would not operate safely, toilets would be clogged, and heating and air conditioning units would not be fixed, as examples; &

WHEREAS, in 2015 the NCGA adopted General Statute Sections 105-164, which imposed a sales tax on some RMI, services, but not others, and subsequently expanded the coverage to additional providers; &

WHEREAS, the sales taxes on RMI labor create a disproportionate burden on lower and middle income persons; now therefore be it

THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCDP urges the NCGA to:

1. Repeal sections 105-164; &
2. Repeal sales taxes on the labor of any Retail Motor Industry (RMI) service provider of any kind be hereafter imposed.

Restore the Federal Estate Tax

WHEREAS, the Federal Estate Tax is a century-old levy on inherited wealth paid exclusively by multi-millionaires and billionaires, and is a necessary part of a progressive tax system for a modern industrial democracy;

WHEREAS, the Federal Estate Tax is the most progressive part of the US Tax Code because it affects only those who are most able to pay; large inheritances play a significant role in the concentration of wealth, thus weakening the estate tax exacerbates wealth inequality;

WHEREAS, the Federal Estate Tax only applies to the largest inheritances. The law offers an exemption that allows estates under a certain value to pass property to heirs tax free;

WHEREAS, the Federal Estate Tax has been under attack since the late 1970s by supply-side economic theory advocates intending to shift taxes from capital to wages and consumption, resulting in a series of increases in the exemption and decreases in the tax rate;

WHEREAS, the Congressional Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that the cuts to the Federal Estate Tax in the 2017 Trump Tax Bill will cost \$83 billion over the next ten years; now, therefore, be it

WHEREAS, from 1997 to 2017, the estate tax exemption increased from \$600,000 to \$11.4M, and the rate decreased from 55% to 35%; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges US Congress to restore the Federal Estate Tax.

Resolution in Support of Create Benefit Corporations In NC

WHEREAS, the purpose of our economic system is or should be to provide fair living wages to all workers in an environmentally sustainable manner; &

WHEREAS, traditional corporations have been free to maximize profits while reducing employment opportunities and/or living wages for workers, and often imposing significant environmental costs on local communities and on society at large; &

WHEREAS, since 2010, thirty states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws allowing the creation of benefit corporations, also known as B corporations; &

WHEREAS, benefit corporations are designed to have a positive impact on society, workers, the community and the environment in addition to profit as their legally defined goals; &

WHEREAS, a benefit corporation's directors and officers operate the business with the same authority as in a traditional corporation, but are required to consider the impact of their decisions not only on shareholders, but also on society and the environment; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCDP urges the NCGA to legalize benefit corporations, encourage their formation, and encourage the conversion of existing corporations to benefit corporations.

Resolution in Support of the creation of a Public Bank: Taxpayers Bank

WHEREAS, NC is expected to spend between \$700B and \$1.8T in interest alone to finance its \$2T bond of 2016; &

WHEREAS, if NC had its own public bank, it could save \$370M in interest, and such savings could be used to meet the needs of citizens in our state, such as school class size reduction, stronger environmental protection, or opioid countermeasures; &

WHEREAS, NC could also save significant amounts on bank fees if a public bank managed our state's funds; &

WHEREAS, the bank could provide loans to local governments at lower interest rates, which could save hundreds of millions infrastructure project financing costs; &

WHEREAS, the bank could offer NC students low interest college loans; &

WHEREAS, the bank would partner, not compete with, small local banks; &

WHEREAS, the bank could reduce the risks of the global private banking system which collapsed recently and required taxpayer bailouts; &

WHEREAS, NC has over \$112B in usable resources, some of which could go towards starting the bank; &

WHEREAS, the mission of a bank would be to serve the public interest in that hard-earned taxpayer dollars remain at home for investment in taxpayer needs; &

WHEREAS, just such a public bank, the Bank of North Dakota, has been operating successfully for almost 100 years, and there is a bipartisan movement in other states to establish their own public banks; now therefore be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly will enact legislation to establish a public bank called the "NC Taxpayers Bank" that will serve the interests of the taxpayers of NC.

Resolution Supporting the Restoration of Net Neutrality

WHEREAS, Net Neutrality is defined as: the principle that Internet service providers should enable access to all content and applications regardless of the source, and without favoring or blocking particular products or websites; &

WHEREAS, the US Federal Communications Commission dismantled Net Neutrality on June 11, 2018; &

WHEREAS, access to the internet is no longer a luxury service and has become a necessity in education, employment, personal finance, consumer awareness, and information literacy; &

WHEREAS, the government policy of Net Neutrality protects the internet as a free market place, and the absence of net neutrality violates a fundamental American principle of free trade. The absence of free trade puts small businesses at a disadvantage and gives businesses who can pay for search engine placement at an unfair advantage which allows consumer prices to rise

in the absence of a competitive market place;
now therefore be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCDP will research the effects of the dismantling of Net Neutrality and take steps to restore Net Neutrality to the USA henceforth and forevermore.

HEALTHCARE SECTION

Resolution in Support of Medicare for All

WHEREAS, The Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA) expanded health coverage to 20 million people, but left millions of others uninsured and failed to control costs; and

WHEREAS, many families with insurance have gone bankrupt because of the costs of a catastrophic illness and many families fear that they are one illness or accident away from financial ruin; and

WHEREAS, the “Medicare for All Act of 2019” in the US Congress would provide health coverage for all US residents at considerably lower cost; and

WHEREAS, residents of the US spent far more on healthcare per capita in 2015 than 15 other high income countries including Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom but did not have better outcomes; and

WHEREAS, under our current system of care, private corporate health insurers, often chosen by our employers, stand between us and our care providers by:

1. determining which physicians and hospitals we can see;
2. setting the amounts of deductibles and copayments at levels that often make appropriate treatments impossible; and
3. by denying claims for medical care that our medical providers judge medically necessary; and

WHEREAS, the platform of the NCDP calls for “An affordable universal single-payer system to provide the most equitable and effective health care, serving both individual and public health needs...”; and

WHEREAS, the current healthcare system creates a perverse incentive to companies to avoid having an “aging workforce” which would raise insurance premiums; therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCDP:

1. Recognizes access to quality health care is a basic human right and must be guaranteed for all; and
2. Supports a health care system that covers all and provides comprehensive medical services including wellness care, prescriptions, dental, vision, mental health, surgery, rehabilitation and long-term care; &
3. Urges NC and US Federal legislators to do what is socially just and economically sustainable, and pass universal single-payer Healthcare for All.

Resolution to Impose Price Caps on Non-Current R&D Pharmaceuticals

WHEREAS, data collected from various reports indicate such resolutions would benefit American citizens overall healthcare costs and access to medicines that support health across the nation; &

WHEREAS, in key report findings States should target excessive pricing for both generic and brand-name drugs, both by prohibiting unfair launch prices and by capping annual price increases; &

WHEREAS, findings stress states should mandate the public release of as much information as possible about pricing, as well as development, manufacturing, and marketing costs on a drug-by-drug basis; &

WHEREAS, more than one in four Americans currently taking prescription medications report difficulty affording them, which impacts our fellow citizens across the nation as well as our NC state; &

WHEREAS, one in eight report that they or a family member have cut pills in half or skipped doses due to high drug costs; &

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of Americans – regardless of political affiliation – believe that lowering the cost of prescription drugs should be a top policy priority; now, therefore be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NCDP urges:

1. the NCGA to draft legislation that will seek and define Fair Pricing, Lobbying and Political Donations Transparency, and Legal Resources for NC citizens manipulated by price gouging; &
2. the Congressional/Senate Leadership to actively pursue legislation that requires top pharmaceutical companies to impose restructuring models to curb exorbitant pricing, or face Federal regulation.

Resolution in Support of Legalize Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) in NC

WHEREAS, Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) describes a procedure where a terminally ill adult suffering from an incurable disease, otherwise of sound mind, diagnosed by two doctors as having six months to live or less may have a prescription filled by a licensed physician with an aid in dying drug; &

WHEREAS, under MAID, any participating doctor or pharmacist acting in compliance with the numerous statutory safeguards listed above will be immune from criminal, civil or administrative liability; &

WHEREAS, MAID has been legalized since 1997 in 8 US jurisdictions (OR, WA, CA, MT, CO, VT, HI and DC) providing a vital option for terminally ill individuals who opt to die at the time and place of their choosing, surrounded by friends and family; &

WHEREAS, yearly Gallup polling data consistently show that over 70% of Americans, including a significant majority of almost all demographic groups, support the legalization of MAID as one End of Life option among several; &

WHEREAS, states that have legalized MAID have better End of Life care and pain management by prompting honest discussions between patient and physician; now, therefore be it

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the NCDP urges the NCGA to enact MAID legislation similar to Oregon’s Death with Dignity Act, to allow mentally competent, adult North Carolinians diagnosed with less than six months to live due to an incurable terminal illness, to have one more option at their end of life.

Resolution in Support the Disability Integration Act of HR 555 and 117

WHEREAS, nursing homes and other institutions are often abusive, including rape, to the elderly and disabled young; &

WHEREAS, nursing homes are vastly more expensive than community-based care, when community-based facilities are struggling to stay afloat; &

WHEREAS, nursing homes may leave people to die in natural disasters; &

WHEREAS, the current Congress is rolling back protections for the disabled; &

WHEREAS, funding has been threatened; &

WHEREAS, passing the Disability Integration Act (S. 117 H.R. 555) would reverse decades of institutional bias and give people access to in-home care so they can stay in their communities; now, therefore be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party:

1. will fight for the rights and protections of nursing home residents to reduce abuse; &
2. will fight to expand care for the disabled and elderly; &
3. believes that home healthcare services should be added to the Disability Act; &
4. calls on our Congressional representatives to pay attention to and support the Disability Integration Act (S.117, H.R. 555)

Resolution in Support Global Reproductive Health

WHEREAS, on 1/23/2017, President Trump signed an executive order, dubbed the global gag rule, denying federal aid to global health organizations that counsel on abortion; &

WHEREAS, this policy has been shown by the Guttmacher Institute to “undermine the very goals of US foreign aid programs by harming the health of people in poor countries, violating medical ethics and trampling on democratic values”; now, therefore be it

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party:

1. calls upon Representative David Price and Democratic members of the NC Congressional Delegation to sponsor and support the Global Health, Empowerment and Rights Act to restore foreign aid to these organizations; &

2. defines access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including safe abortion access, as a human right and calls on Representative David Price and Democratic members of the NC Congressional Delegation to sponsor and support bills which would expand family planning funding worldwide.

Resolution to Protect Employer-Funded Healthcare From Employer Religion

WHEREAS, employees and coverage-eligible family members need family planning contraceptive care and medication; & WHEREAS, employers should not burden employees with their religious beliefs that economically deny their right to family planning contraceptive care and medications; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party advocates for a federal mandate that employer-funded healthcare insurance must cover contraceptive care and medications for the employee and the employee's eligible family members.

EDUCATION SECTION

Resolution to Restore Cap on Charter Schools & Eliminate Vouchers

WHEREAS, well-funded public school education is essential to our democracy;

WHEREAS, the NC NCGA passed legislation in 1996 that allowed tax dollars to be allocated to support a maximum of 100 charter schools;

WHEREAS, in 2017 Senate Bill 8 removed the cap on the NC charter schools;

WHEREAS, the state passed legislation allowing tax dollars to be allocated for vouchers for private school tuition;

WHEREAS, traditional public schools are thus deprived of money essential for paying teachers, teacher aids, up-to-date technology, teaching materials and supplies as well as valuable enriching experiences for students;

WHEREAS, charter and private schools may choose to accept or decline a student; &

WHEREAS, public schools are required to accept and meet the needs of all students in their respective districts;

WHEREAS, charter schools are not required to keep records on how many of their students end up leaving the school and when;

WHEREAS, charter and private schools are not required to offer free and reduced-price lunches for students;

WHEREAS, charter schools and private schools are not required to provide student transportation; &

WHEREAS, individual charter schools create their own standards and curriculum as part of their autonomy; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the NCDP:

1. Urges the NCGA to reinstate the cap of 100 charter schools in the state and to reinstate the original purposes of charter schools, i.e. to emphasize expanding learning experiences for students who are at risk of failure or academically talented; to encourage creative teaching methods; & to share best practices with traditional public schools;
2. Urges the NCGA to preserve tax dollars for traditional public schools by passing legislation that eliminates the use of tax dollars to fund tuition vouchers to private schools;

3. Urges the NCGA to require charter schools to keep track of which students leave their schools, when, and for what reason;
4. Urges the NCGA to reinstate the 1996 cap of 100 charter schools in NC and eliminate using tax dollars to fund tuition vouchers for private schools; &
5. will provide information to Democrats across NC about the detrimental effect on traditional public schools of giving tax dollars to fund charter schools and vouchers for private school tuition

Resolution Supporting Public Education

WHEREAS, the liberty and prosperity of the people hang upon access to high-quality public education, administrators, and facilities regardless of where they live or the socio-economic status of their parents; and

WHEREAS, because we are deeply concerned about the turn-around model for “failing” schools;

WHEREAS, in our schools, there are only 242 counselors, 52 social workers, 40 psychologists, and 93 nurses per 100,000 students, yet national organizations recommend 400 counselors, 400 social workers, 143 psychologists, and 133 nurses per 100,000 students; &

WHEREAS, the NC Constitution provides that “the benefits of the University of NC and other public institutions of higher education, as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense;” and

WHEREAS, charter schools operate using public money but are not accountable to a publicly elected board; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly to:

1. Pass laws and do every needful thing to make the tuition and other costs associated with the University of NC and other public institutions truly free of expense consistent with the full spirit of the NC Constitution.
2. Raise per pupil funding, teacher salaries, and classified staff salaries, to a level commensurate with other states
3. Support local public accountability of all schools at the local level, including charter schools and those that might receive voucher support.
4. Fund positions for 400 school counselors, 400 social workers, 143 psychologists, and 133 nurses for every 100,000 students
5. Issue public bonds to provide for school construction across the state.

Resolution to Fully Fund NC Public School Students’ Access To Mental Healthcare

WHEREAS, the state’s public school system’s ratio of school psychologists and school social workers is approximately 1 for every 2000 students and ideally would be 1:250; &

WHEREAS, many students are at a classroom disadvantage due to trauma, poverty, and behavioral issues; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State

1. of NC increase funding for access to school-based mental health supports; &
2. fund training for leaders of trauma-sensitive classrooms, and
3. reimburse parents for lost wages when they must meet with school staffs.

Resolution to Create a STEM Senior Corps

WHEREAS, the jobs of the future need a workforce of highly trained STEM workers; &

WHEREAS, STEM teachers must keep current in their rapidly advancing fields; &

WHEREAS, teachers acquire knowledge and STEM growth through continuing education including community outreach to practicing STEM professionals; &

WHEREAS, NC has a vast resource of newly retired and active STEM professionals; &

WHEREAS, at the time that a STEM professional initially separates from their employer they often receive a supplemental taxable sum that may include unused sick leave, unused vacation and other miscellaneous compensation; &

WHEREAS, the compensation received by the newly retired STEM professional may cause a substantial tax liability; &

WHEREAS, the newly retired STEM professional may possess both skills and a willingness to share these skills and time sharing and mentoring practicing STEM teachers; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that

1. the NCDP urges the NCGA to promulgate legislation that forms a committee to create a “STEM Senior Corps” comprised of newly retired STEM professionals that provide onsite mentoring in their field of expertise for STEM teachers; &
2. during the time of active mentoring by a member of the STEM Senior Corps, the mentor shall receive a deferral of the payment of NC state income tax on the supplemental income received at the time of their retirement.

Resolution for a Renewed Emphasis On Civics In NC Schools

WHEREAS, the decrease in civics being taught in schools across the country contributes to the increase in extreme partisan divisive behavior, the rise of anti-media sentiment, and the

erosion of basic institutions of government in the US, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party staff consult with other states, such as the state of Washington, for a possible template for changing legislation regarding civics requirements in the schools.

Resolution to Preserve the Environmentally Sensitive Tract between RDU & Umstead State Park

WHEREAS, the RDU Airport Authority voted to lease the Odd Fellow Tract to Wake Stone to use as a private quarry without any public input; and

WHEREAS, the Odd Fellows Tract is a forested tract of public land bordering Umstead State Park, the Old Reedy Creek Trail, and I-40; and

WHEREAS, this parcel has been historically used as open space by the Boy Scouts for overnight camping, and by Triangle Off-road Cycling Group for bicycling; and

WHEREAS, quarrying this land is the most destructive use of this land, and will destroy 140 acres of the land's current ecosystem function of infiltrating water, protecting the downstream watershed of Crabtree Creek including properties such as Crabtree Valley Mall and neighborhoods downstream, and providing a buffer for clean air to trail users and to Umstead State Park; and

WHEREAS, this destruction of this public, forested land is opposed by the Umstead Coalition and the Sierra Club as well as well as 72% of the respondents of a Triangle Business Journal poll; and

WHEREAS, a judge blocked any quarry-related activities at the site until the Federal Aviation Administration can review the case;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party opposes the use of this public land for a private quarry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges RDU Airport Authority to sell this parcel to the Umstead Coalition for conservation by adding it to Umstead State Park.

Resolution Calling on the United States Congress to Address Climate Change, and Enact the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Democratic Party is committed to addressing climate change and is committed to protecting residents from the effects of climate change and air pollution; and

WHEREAS, climate change is a threat to public health, the environment, national security, food security, and business supply chains, and

WHEREAS, the Southeast region is experiencing longer and more frequent droughts, more frequent and intense storms including unprecedented hurricanes and

WHEREAS, more frequent heavy rains are expected to increase flooding, threatening infrastructure; and as temperatures rise and droughts increase in frequency and duration, agriculture and forestry will likely face reduced yields, potentially damaging livelihoods and the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, societal costs of inaction are significant and outweigh the temporary economic impacts associated with the energy transition; and

WHEREAS, a scientific consensus asserts that greenhouse gas emissions are the primary cause of global climate change, and that climate change is a crisis demanding immediate measures to reduce its negative effects; and

WHEREAS, assigning a cost to greenhouse gas emissions has been affirmed by liberal and conservative experts alike as the most efficient ways to discourage consumption of fossil fuels and encourage development of alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the urgent need to transition from fossil fuels can be accomplished with a market-based program, namely a revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend; and

WHEREAS, such an instrument would encourage consumers and the market to replace their consumption of carbon-based energy with innovative energy sources, whether by being more efficient or by choosing other, less carbon intensive energy sources; and

WHEREAS, this revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend is an effective method to reduce carbon emissions for the following reasons:

1. The fee would motivate everyone to conserve and to adopt renewable energy without the need for extensive governmental regulatory controls or infrastructure;
2. The fee would employ a free market approach to encourage innovative processes, not only in energy production, but also in every other field in which energy is consumed, e.g. electric cars, mass transportation, architectural planning and construction, water heating, lighting and air conditioning in residential and commercial buildings;
3. Levying the fee at the point of production would be more efficient, less expensive and provide more accurate price signals than would doing so at the points of consumption;
4. The fee would incentivize the development and use of alternative energies and attendant technologies;
5. Because the fee is levied on the same basis on all businesses, it is fairer to every business and

easier to administer than alternatives, such as a cap and trade system;

6. Because the dividend would be returned in equal percentages to all US households, citizens will be able to offset the cost of rising energy and carbon-intensive products, which would especially benefit households in lower economic percentiles; and

7. The fee would encourage similar actions by other nations trading with the United States, by imposing carbon content-based fees on imports and rebates for exports to nations that have not taken such actions;

WHEREAS, by enacting these policies, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will greatly help fight climate change, and is a net economic boost to residents of the State of North Carolina and its vicinity; and

WHEREAS, further delay in responding to this crisis increases the risk of catastrophic climate change, imminently threatens low lying coastal areas and land and sea species, threatens water supplies, increases the frequency of severe weather events, increases the cost of undertaking adequate responses and increases risks to the global economy; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina District Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to accept the position of climate scientists that burning fossil fuels is the primary cause of climate change, and that a necessary measure to address this problem is the enactment of a revenue-neutral fee on carbon production at its source, with the fees being returned to all Americans as a dividend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to address climate change by

enacting the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act as sound, effective legislation.

RESOLUTION IN FAVOR OF PLANNING AND FUNDING FOR CRITICAL CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Coastal Commission limited its forecast for the protection of the North Carolina coast from 100 -year plan to a 30 -year plan and blatantly ignored global warming predictions, we are now in a situation where towns and businesses, ocean adjacent or upriver, are not protected in annual concrete ways for disaster relief or preventative measures to protect our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Republican majorities, although generous this year in allocating funds for two enormous hurricanes, have no annual apparatus for now predictable weather event future funding; and

WHEREAS, FEMA funding only covers repair and rebuilding exactly in place even where ground is steadily being lost to rising waters; and

WHEREAS, late 2018 and 2019, weather patterns have conformed to decades of climate scientists' predictions on the permanent changes occurring at the coast and, in fact, the entire state which we can now expect to be facing frequently for which the Coastal Commission's goals do not adequately plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED ,that the North Carolina Democratic Party urges Democratic leadership to study, adapt, and adopt with alacrity innovative ways to protect the state in the face of the rapidly accelerating effects of climate change to ensure Carolinians' safety, control our taxes, inspire innovation and job creation, and add to the continuing productivity of our people and our state in these challenging times including

- reconfiguring the NC Coastal Commission (or creating a new commission) to expand its

mission to more than dredging local beaches and carting in loads of replacement sand and keeping real estate prices high for the protection of the wealthy; and

- changing the existing tax structure in order to fund annually the protection of North Carolina's residents in emergency weather events as well as providing permanent relocation funding or a realistic way of rebuilding towns by adding a special tax to large corporations like Duke Power and other corporate state influencers to alleviate the burden of stricken working-class Carolinians while not breaking promises of lower taxes to the middle class; and

- engaging military personnel drawn from both national and state military branches based at our coast in cooperation with state and local government agencies in major strategy planning, manpower and resource allocations, and the development of strategic climate change protections for our towns and our citizens; and

- providing realistic planning for permanently moving populations inland by funding and hiring the best scientific, ecological, logistical minds to help our people not only to survive but to thrive in our environmentally challenged and changing world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on Governor Roy Cooper to reaffirm his support for his executive orders concerning climate change, and

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party calls on the General Assembly to introduce legislation codifying Governor Cooper's executive orders, and to introduce legislation that will implement a Green New Deal at the state level, including requiring our public utilities to transition to clean energy generation sources, and

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party urges the North Carolina General Assembly and Governor Cooper to:

- end the moratorium on wind power as soon as possible and block any attempts to repeal the state's renewable energy portfolio standard;
- encourage electric vehicles, strengthen public transportation infrastructure and build and redesign our streets to make it safer and more convenient for people to walk and bike more and drive less;
- set statewide emissions goals to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible;
- sign into a global target of halving wasted food by 2030;
- curb both over-production and emissions by securing a moratorium on new and existing factory farms, known as CAFOs (concentrated animal feeding operations), major polluters of air and water, and stop funneling taxpayer money to these big corporations that back the construction and expansion of CAFOs;
- incentivize carbon farming, climate-smart agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by sequestering, or storing, carbon in the soil instead of promoting its release into the atmosphere as carbon dioxide thereby, improving soil health and productivity, maximizing crop yields, increasing soil resilience and reducing the need for pesticides; and
- devise and implement incentives for renewable energy companies, small-scale, and individual power producers to make use of North Carolina's abundant solar and wind resources so that we can achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement and the principles of the US Climate Alliance.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXPANDED EFFORT TO PLAN AND IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO MITIGATE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF STORMWATER AND SEA LEVEL RISE

WHEREAS, the effects of more frequent and intense hurricanes, flooding, extreme temperatures, droughts, saltwater intrusion, and beach erosion have already impacted and will continue to impact Coastal North Carolina's economy; and

WHEREAS, Coastal North Carolina's tourism economy and local fisheries are dependent upon healthy beaches, sounds, and natural resources which are threatened by not having enough county staffing to be proactive on stormwater, sea level rise, and water quality issues; and

WHEREAS, climate-related environmental disruptions pose significant health risks including compromised drinking water; and

WHEREAS, Eastern North Carolina has experienced a 1/3 increase in impaired waters since 2017; and

WHEREAS, to maintain economic growth and development and to provide responsible leadership, we must build resilient communities and develop strategies to mitigate and prepare for climate-related impacts; and

WHEREAS, water quality issues also threaten water quality, especially with the predominant use of on-site waste treatment; and

WHEREAS, even well maintained traditional septic systems releases 60 percent of nitrogen into the groundwater, degrading estuarine waters; and

WHEREAS, Coastal North Carolina's economy is dependent on clean water resources;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party urges North Carolina to:

- Establish a stormwater working group to include all local governments, state, and federal entities such as NCDOT and NPS, and other concerned organizations from throughout the region;
- Expand and provide funds for additional positions to help facilitate
- better environmental stewardship and liaison with the stormwater working group;
- Expand county health departments and create a septic health initiative;
- Promote the use of local plant species and smart landscaping including rain gardens and

use of permeable driveways, streets, and walkways for better management practices (BMP's) to minimize the impact of stormwater runoff;

- Monitor and report Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for all coastal waterways;
- Educate people on the use of marsh sills to protect estuarine shoreline from erosion, combining engineered structures

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE BAN OF SINGLE USE PLASTICS AND SUPPORT OF BIODEGRADABLE OPTIONS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS

WHEREAS, single use plastics do harm to wildlife, and recently, an endangered whale with plastic in its mouth stranded itself on a North Carolina beach and had to be euthanized; and WHEREAS, single use plastics break down into micro plastics and contaminate our water supply, our soil, food chain, and air, and pose a threat to human and animal health by causing organ damage; and

WHEREAS, single use plastics leach chemicals into the air, soil, and water that are known to disrupt or impair immune, growth, and reproductive systems; and

WHEREAS, Australia has shown that it is possible to reduce plastic bag consumption by 80% in just 3 months; and

WHEREAS, 91% of all plastics are not appropriately recycled and micro plastics can remain in our environment for several hundred years;

WHEREAS, that banning single use plastic is only the first step in a number of actions that should be undertaken to preserve our natural resources, as we look to reduce the use of single use plastics, strive to improve recycling, and find new technologies, addressing barriers in the process to any of the steps outlined above,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the North Carolina Democratic Party will consult with other local, state, and foreign governments, as well as science-based organizations and qualified representatives from

the disabled community, to understand the issues caused by single use plastics; and

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the state party staff will propose a ban on single use plastics to be considered by the precinct, county, district and state executive committees; and

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this ban would not apply to any disabled or special needs person(s) who cannot use a plastic alternative because of physical, mental, or medical limitations; and

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED businesses should still provide plastic straws to those who need them until an acceptable alternative is in place. As is the case with other disability accommodations, such as admitting a service dog, this should not require the customer to prove they have a disability. To avoid regular invasions of privacy, they should simply be available upon request.

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the committee that would design the implementation of such a ban should acknowledge that the biodegradable and reusable options which are currently available do not work for all people with disabilities, and would include proper representation from the disabled community, especially concerning availability of straws in establishments serving food and drink; and

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the ban would not include single use medical equipment such as IV bags, etc.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE BAN ON THE USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS

WHEREAS, Single-use plastic bags had been banned for most retail stores on the Outer Banks since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Single-use plastic bags are a source of unsightly litter and pollute our coastal waters; and

WHEREAS, Litter and pollution from single-use plastic bags is bad for the economy and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the breakdown of single-use plastic bags introduces toxins and carcinogens that are harmful to the marine environment; and

WHEREAS, Marine mammals and fish are harmed by the consumption of single-use plastic bags, which they confuse for natural food sources; and

WHEREAS, the general public, most local retailers and local governments support the plastic bag ban; and

WHEREAS, the repeal of the plastic bag ban was pushed by outside lobbying groups not concerned about Eastern North Carolina; now, therefore be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NCDP Third District supports efforts to reinstate the ban on single use plastic bags and urges our State Senators and Representatives to introduce legislation to that effect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NCDP Third District requests that Governor Cooper and the Department of Environmental Quality institute a ban on single-use plastic bags statewide to protect our environment, the marine life, and our economy.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING A “GREEN NEW DEAL” AND DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1.1°C above late 19th century levels demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice as attested by increased and intensifying

wildfires, floods, rising seas, diseases, droughts and extreme weather; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, which has caused a 60% decline in global wildlife populations since 1970, could devastate much of life on Earth for the next 10 million years and may pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has disproportionately contributed to the climate and extinction emergencies and has repeatedly obstructed global efforts to transition toward a green economy, and thus bears an extraordinary responsibility to rapidly address these existential threats; and

WHEREAS, to address the nation’s urgent climate change needs and impacts Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has proposed a “Green New Deal”; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Green New Deal would be a sweeping overhaul of the economy that centers equity and justice in its solutions and has the following goals:

- Dramatically expand existing renewable power sources and deploy new production capacity with the goal of meeting 100% of national power demand through renewable sources;
- building a national, energy-efficient, “smart” grid;
- upgrading every residential and industrial building for state-of-the-art energy efficiency, comfort and safety;
- eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing, agricultural and other industries, including by investing in local-scale agriculture in communities across the country;
- eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from, repairing and improving transportation and other infrastructure, and upgrading water

infrastructure to ensure universal access to clean water;

- funding massive investment in the drawdown of greenhouse gases;
- making “green” technology, industry, expertise, products and services a major export of the United States, with the aim of becoming the undisputed international leader in helping other countries transition to completely greenhouse gas neutral economies and bringing about a global Green New Deal; and

WHEREAS, the term “Just Transition” is a framework for a fair shift to an economy that is ecologically sustainable, equitable, and just for all its members; and

WHEREAS, marginalized populations in North Carolina and worldwide, including people of color, immigrants, indigenous communities, low-income individuals, and people with disabilities, and the unhoused are already disproportionately affected by the effects of climate change, and will continue to bear an excess burden as temperatures increase, oceans rise, and disasters worsen;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party declares that a climate emergency threatens our region, state, nation, civilization, humanity and the natural world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party endorses the Green New Deal and its objectives, transitioning 100 percent of our electricity generation to renewable sources; building a national, energy-efficient “smart” grid; upgrading every residential and industrial building for state-of-the-art energy efficiency, comfort and safety; and transitioning the manufacturing, agriculture and transportation industries away from coal, oil and gas, investing in projects to capture climate-damaging gases already in the atmosphere and make the United States an undisputed global leader in green technology, ensuring that the advances we make can be shared with the global

community and urges the Democratic National Committee to adopt it as part of its platform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on Representative Price and members of North Carolina’s Congressional Delegation to sign on as cosponsors of H.R. 109 and its Senate counterpart, S.Res.59, sponsored by Senator Edward Markey (D-MA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party commits to calling on higher levels of government to provide all necessary financial and regulatory assistance in support of its efforts to end county-wide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030, to draw down greenhouse gases, and to accelerate adaptation and resilience strategies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party commits to educating Orange County residents about the climate emergency and organizing and advocating for a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort at the local, regional, state, national, and global levels to provide maximum protection for our residents as well as all the people and species of the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party hereby includes in its 2019 and 2020 legislative agenda support for A Green New Deal to respond to the climate emergency and related legislation.

Resolution to Adopt and Support the NC Democratic Native American Caucus Opposing the Construction of the Mountain Valley Pipeline

WHEREAS, the proposed Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) Southgate would be an extension of the larger Mountain Valley Pipeline project, coming more than 40 miles into North Carolina, where it would enter near Eden in Rockingham County and end in Haw River in Alamance County. This is an extension of the MVP which, if built, would run from fracking sites in Pennsylvania,

through West Virginia and Virginia, and connect to the Transcontinental Pipeline.

WHEREAS, The MVP would transport vast amounts of fracked gas supply from the Marcellus and Utica shale production (located in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia) to markets in the mid- and south-Atlantic regions of the United States.

WHEREAS, The MVP is a for-profit company intended for the benefit of its investors and as such, the power MVP has exercised in the past and plans to exercise in the future for forcible land takings by eminent domain does not meet the United States and North Carolina constitutional standard of land takings only for public use;

WHEREAS, construction of MVP may threaten significant sacred, cultural and historic sites of great importance to the original tribal inhabitants of the Piedmont areas of North Carolina and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, MVP poses an increased risk to the water supply of more than a million North Carolinians who depend on the various tributaries and streams that connect to the Haw River, Jordan Lake and Stoney Creek Reservoir for drinking water supply and agriculture.

WHEREAS, MVP has been opposed by the Alamance County Commissioners, Town of Stoneville in Rockingham County, Elon College Student Government Association, Eastern American Indian Woodland Lacrosse Association, Saponi Stickball Association, and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality has found this pipeline isn't needed,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party stands in support of the North Carolina Democratic Party Native American Caucus, Rockingham, and Alamance County members in its opposition to the Mountain Valley Pipeline and denial of any and all

permits being sought for final approval for construction of MVP; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party remains fully committed to protecting tribal sacred, cultural and historic sites and will always work with American Indian people and tribal governments to protect tribal sovereignty and tribal lands for all future generations.

RESOLUTION OPPOSING SEISMIC TESTING, OFFSHORE EXPLORATION OFF THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD FOR NATURAL GAS AND OIL, AND EXTRACTION

WHEREAS, The Dare County Democratic Party, the Dare County Board of Commissioners, the Towns of Duck, Kill Devil Hills, Kitty Hawk, Nags Head and Southern Shores, the Outer Banks Visitors Bureau, the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, and other groups have stated their opposition to offshore exploration for natural gas and oil, as well as seismic testing to support offshore exploration and extraction; and

WHEREAS, the 27 counties that comprise North Carolina's coastal region generate significantly more personal and commercial income, public revenue, and employment opportunities, than will that of offshore gas and oil exploration and extraction, to wit, in 2016:

- These counties generated nearly \$4B in tourist revenue
- Three of these coastal counties--Dare, New Hanover, and Brunswick--were among the top ten North Carolina counties in tourist revenue generation \$2.2B and nearly 25,000 jobs
- Dare, New Hanover, and Brunswick Counties alone provided 10% of North Carolina's travel and tourism income
- Studies suggest that offshore drilling will generate \$181M in annual income and create 1,122 jobs over a seven-year startup. This is 8.2% of the revenue Dare, New Hanover, and Brunswick generated and only 5% of the jobs created by them in 2016.

· For the 30-year period following the first seven years, offshore drilling is estimated to generate \$1.9B in incomes annually and create 16,910 jobs; again, a fraction of that generated by the coastal counties.

WHEREAS, the aforementioned projections are contingent on the actual quantities of offshore oil and gas being extracted, and the prices of the resources remaining stable at or above the estimated levels; and

WHEREAS, Visitors come from all over the world to enjoy the natural beauty of our clean beaches, marshes, sounds, and tributaries; and

WHEREAS, many of these natural areas provide sanctuary and nesting/breeding grounds for diverse groups of migratory birds, turtles, fish including the highly endangered Right whales, and other forms of wildlife; and

WHEREAS, along with recreational enjoyment, our coastal waters and natural habitats provide the world with some of the best wild-caught seafood, renowned for its freshness and exceptional quality; and

WHEREAS, along North Carolina's northern Outer Banks region the county and local governments are pursuing shoreline protection through beach nourishment to protect and preserve the opportunities for beach enjoyment; and

WHEREAS, the inherent risks to our region from offshore oil and natural gas exploration and drilling have the potential to irrevocably harm our natural environment, our economic well-being, and our overall quality of life, as demonstrated by two massive spills in US waters:

· In 1989, the Exxon Valdez leaked 10.8 million gallons of crude oil in to Prince William Sound, causing \$300M in environmental damage and fouling over 1,000 miles of coastline--many of which remain heavily contaminated today causing severe economic harm to the 3,200 watermen who made their living mostly on commercial fishing, and, and a 35 percent

reduction in tourism in southwest Alaska in the year after spill.

· In 2010, the Deepwater Horizon leaked 184 million gallons of crude oil in the Gulf of Mexico, with well over 12 million pounds of oily residue coating the coastline and caused a \$700M loss in the tourism and fishing industries of Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida in the six months following the leak.

· The 3 million gallon oil spill in Santa Barbara in 1969 covered 35 miles of the coast in oil residue, was considered so catastrophic that a Republican administration signed the National Environmental Policy Act, and visitors to the region continue to deal with the oil "blobs" on the beach that stick to their feet and clothes; and

WHEREAS, one oil spill would devastate the Coastal North Carolina economic engine and tax base; and

WHEREAS, Governor Roy Cooper firmly opposes seismic testing, offshore drilling, and extraction of petroleum resources off the coast of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the industry and federal government have provided no objective evidence for the need to conduct offshore exploration and extraction; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party is vehemently opposed to seismic testing, exploration, and extraction of petroleum resources on the continental shelf or elsewhere off the coast of the Atlantic seaboard; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party strongly urges all leaders of coastal governments, communities, and the North Carolina General Assembly to actively oppose seismic testing, offshore petroleum exploration and extraction policies that risk the health and economic viability of coastal North Carolina.

RESOLUTION FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE LEAHY PROVISIONS TO MILITARY AID FOR ALL SECURITY FORCES

Background: First framed in 1997, the Leahy amendment to the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, made permanent in the Foreign Assistance Act of 2008, prevents U.S. funds from going to security forces that have committed serious human rights violations. It provides for a vetting apparatus and process for accused units.

WHEREAS, The Leahy provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act prohibit disbursement of funds from the State Department and the Department of Defense to foreign security forces that violate human rights; and

WHEREAS, many of the countries to which the United States gives military aid—for example, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, the Gulf Monarchies, Myanmar—have a history of committing human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, The Leahy provisions have been applied inconsistently; now, therefore, be it

THEREFORE, BE RESOLVED, that military aid to any unit of the security forces of a foreign country that has been accused of committing a gross violation of human rights be suspended as specified in U.S. law until allegations are investigated and human rights violations stopped.

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO AGAINST CUBA

WHEREAS, since 7 February 1962, nearly all exports to Cuba from the United States have been banned, and

WHEREAS, the embargo against Cuba has failed to remove either Fidel Castro or the Communist Party of Cuba from power, and

WHEREAS, the people of Cuba have endured nearly six decades of needless suffering under the effects of this embargo, and

WHEREAS, the Government of Cuba has used the embargo as a means to rally the Cuban people against the United States, and

WHEREAS, the United States conducts hundreds of billions of dollars of trade with countries with questionable human rights records,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on all Democratic members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to sponsor or support bills that will lift the embargo on Cuba, including the repeal of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, the Helms-Burton Act of 1996, the Cuba Democracy Act of 1992, and the Cuban Assets Control Regulations of 1963; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the development of a vibrant civil society and liberal democracy in Cuba, and supports the rights of the Cuban people to determine their own government.

RESOLUTION CONCERNING GLOBAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

WHEREAS, on January 23rd, 2017, Donald J. Trump signed an executive order, also referred to as the global gag rule, denying federal aid to global health organizations which counsel on abortion; and

WHEREAS, this policy has been shown by the Guttmacher Institute to “undermine the very goals of US foreign aid programs by harming the health of people in poor countries, violating medical ethics and trampling on democratic values” (Barot, 2017);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls upon all Democratic members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to sponsor or support the Global Health, Empowerment and Rights Act

to restore foreign aid to these organizations;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Fourth Congressional District Democratic Party defines access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including safe abortion access, as a human right and calls on all Democratic members of the North Carolina Congressional Delegation to sponsor or support bills which would expand family planning funding worldwide.

RESOLUTION AGAINST ANTI-IMMIGRANT POLICIES

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's immigration policies have systematically clamped down on legal immigration as well as increased persecution of undocumented immigrants while Trump's appallingly racist rhetoric has demonized immigrant families as a dangerous invading force that is supposedly threatening our national security. Among Trump's major actions on immigration, the administration has:

- Declared a national emergency to bypass Congress and divert funds set aside for military construction to build an unnecessary border wall to stop an imaginary invasion.
- Banned nationals of eight countries, most majority-Muslim, from entering the United States.
- Cancelled the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.
- Reduced refugee admissions to the lowest level since the resettlement program was created in 1980 and blocked victims of gang violence and domestic abuse from seeking asylum.
- Initiated a zero-tolerance immigration policy that has resulted in the forced separation of families and the caging of nearly 15,000 children, arguably putting the U.S. in the position of violating basic human rights.

- Restricted asylum seekers to ports of entry and forced Mexico to house waiting families in makeshift camps at the Mexican border.
- Increased Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) worksite investigations, administrative proceedings and raids by 750% over the previous year.
- Ended the designation of Temporary Protected Status for nationals of Haiti, Nicaragua, Sudan, Honduras and El Salvador and is threatening to end TPS for more countries.
- Created a denaturalization force to strip naturalized citizens of their citizenship status if they find any illegal conduct in their past, even if individuals served their time already, and is actively monitoring naturalized citizens on social media to find evidence of illegal conduct.
- Threatens to block legal immigrants from gaining citizenship if they received any public benefits, including Obamacare, for their families.

WHEREAS, in North Carolina, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has accelerated its efforts to detain and arrest undocumented immigrants statewide since late 2018 in retaliation for sheriffs of counties who are refusing to aid and abet the inhumane federal immigration enforcement practices that would have them engage in racial profiling, cost their counties millions of dollars, and terrorize communities and tear families apart; and

WHEREAS, Republicans in North Carolina's House of Representatives have introduced a bill that would force sheriffs to work with ICE at the risk of incurring fines of up to \$25,500 per day if they refuse;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party Democratic Party (OCDP) strongly opposes Trump's extreme immigration policies and manufactured national

emergency requiring that a wall be built on the United States' southern border with funds taken from Congress' lawful appropriation of funds to other projects and needs, especially military funds and especially military funds earmarked for the upgrade of crumbling military housing, including the housing of military bases in the state of North Carolina, including Fort Bragg, Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party Democratic Party calls on Governor Roy Cooper and the state of North Carolina to join the lawsuits filed by 16 states (California et al. v. Trump et al) to oppose President Trump's national emergency and to prove that the only national emergency is the current chief executive and executive branch; and

BE IT ALSO FURTHER RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on Governor Roy Cooper to veto any bill that calls for fining sheriffs and other local law enforcement who refuse to be coerced to enforce federal immigration law.

RESOLUTION TO REFORM THE MILITARY DISCHARGE PROCESS

WHEREAS, veterans are frequently discharged due to misconduct related to service-connected disabilities and;

WHEREAS, many veterans have PTSD due to their duties in combat and;

WHEREAS, veterans with a bad paper - other than honorable - discharge are not eligible for VA benefits and;

WHEREAS, these veterans are at risk for drug/alcohol addiction, homelessness and suicide and;

WHEREAS, it is very difficult to remedy errors in the discharge process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party support legislation to the reform the military discharge process.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE MILITARY JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, The men and women of our Armed Forces are America's greatest asset in keeping our nation safe at home and promoting our interests abroad and;

WHEREAS, military sexual assault victims are frequently wrongfully discharged and;

WHEREAS, it is very difficult to remedy errors in the discharge process and;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate has introduced The Military Justice Improvement Act, model legislation for reforming the military justice process.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party support the Military Justice Improvement Act.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FUNDING TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE FUNDING TO FILL VACANT VA POSITIONS

WHEREAS, each day, more than 366,000 VA employees come to work for America's Veterans and;

WHEREAS, More than one in 10 Veterans Affairs jobs is currently unfilled and;

WHEREAS, despite the lifting of a federal hiring freeze, the Department of Veterans Affairs is opting to leave thousands of positions unfilled.

WHEREAS, the rising number of vacancies threatens to undermine VA care and services,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the North Carolina Democratic Party support legislation to expand

funding so the VA can recruit personnel to fill the 30,000 positions that are currently unfilled.

Resolution to Support Establishing Veterans Treatment Courts

WHEREAS, North Carolina has a very large veteran's population and;

WHEREAS, Veterans Treatment Courts provide treatment options as an alternative to jail for offenders accused of low-level crimes and;

WHEREAS, many Veterans organizations support the Veterans Court System and;

WHEREAS, a Veterans Treatment court remove veterans from the regular criminal justice process and help them address symptoms that are prevalent among veterans, such as post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse, which is often a form of self-medication and;

WHEREAS, in a treatment court the presiding judge works with the veteran to establish a structured rehabilitation program tailored to his or her specific needs and;

WHEREAS, studies show mental illness often plays a role in crimes committed by veterans, and according to the National Institute of Corrections, veterans account for nine of every 100 individuals in U.S. jails and prisons and;

WHEREAS, there are currently over 334 Veterans Treatment Courts throughout the U.S. serving over 15,000 individuals and;

WHEREAS, the vast majority of veterans, regardless of the mistakes they may have made at a difficult time in their lives, have a unique capacity to contribute to society.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party supports the establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts in all jurisdictions in North Carolina, and encourages all jurisdictions to carefully evaluate and establish Veterans Treatment Courts where needed.

Resolution In Support The Defeat Of N.C. HB 370 (2019-2020) Requiring Cooperation With I.C.E.

WHEREAS, The NC House has introduced HB 370 requiring sheriffs and other law enforcement officers to cooperate with ICE; and

WHEREAS, the bill requires administrators or another in charge of county jails, local and district confinement facilities, or satellite jails/work release units to attempt to determine if a prisoner confined there and charged with a felony or with an impaired driving) is a U.S. resident; and

WHEREAS, the bill now mandates (previously, mandates "where possible") the facility administrator or another in charge to make a query of Immigration and Customs Enforcement if unable to determine whether a prisoner is a legal resident or citizen; and

WHEREAS, the bill creates an annual reporting requirement; and

WHEREAS, the bill establishes a civil action for declaratory and injunctive relief for private residents to bring against a city, county, or local law enforcement agency that the complainant believes is not in compliance with a State law related to immigration; and

WHEREAS, this bill will place an undue and very expensive burden on local law enforcement offices and personnel, preventing them from properly deploying resources needed to protect citizens and make our communities safer; now be it therefore

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the of North Carolina Democratic Party strongly oppose the passage of HB370 in the North Carolina House and do everything in its power to prevent HB370 from being enacted.

Resolution to oppose the ban on Transgender Persons Serving in the United State Armed Forces

WHEREAS The president's ban on transgender persons serving in the US military is not only hateful and un-American, it harms military readiness and morale and ultimately makes our country less strong and;

WHEREAS it is the opinion of one person who never has served and against the advice of his military chiefs (Last year, all four service chiefs told Congress that they had seen no discipline, morale or unit readiness problems with transgender troops serving openly in the military (AP).

WHEREAS the ban echoes of some of the most ignorant, intolerant moments in our history that saw women, black Americans, gays and lesbians barred from fully participating in our armed forces and;

WHEREAS transgender people have been allowed to serve openly and transition in the military since a longtime ban was lifted in 2016, and they now serve around the globe and;

WHEREAS Nearly 1,000 troops officially deemed as transgender are currently serving in the American military, according to the Defense Department, and another 228 are in the process of enlisting and;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic party oppose the policy to ban transgender persons from serving in the United States Armed Forces.