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PROLOGUE

The following resolutions were adopted at the 2023 Johnston County and / or Wake County Conventions. Harnett and Wayne Counties did not adopt any resolutions this year. These resolutions have a scope that is at least state-wide and concern all of Congressional District 13 and should be considered by the 2023 North Carolina Congressional District 13 Convention.

Respectfully submitted: E. Marie Dodson & Robert Hyman, District 13th
Resolutions Committee

MEMORIAL RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION HONORING RITA FRANCES ALSTON ROBERTS

WHEREAS Rita Francis Alston Roberts was born on November 11, 1946 in Durham, North Carolina, to the late Hodgesty Venore Alston and the late Virginia Williamson Alston; and

WHEREAS Rita attended Winston Salem State University, North Carolina State University, and Duke University starting her teaching career in Martinsville, Virginia in 1968 and returned to North Carolina to work in the Durham Public and Wake County Public Schools where she served in a variety of roles that included managing a 21st Century Learning Center, creating the first alternative program for Durham Public Schools, and coordinating the Federal Reading program for the Educational Professional Administration before retiring in 2005; and

WHEREAS Rita was a member of Wake Chapel Church for over 40 years where she founded one of the first programs for children and teens called Youth for Christ and her along with Mrs. Esther Dozier founded the Living in Love and Christian Service (LILACS) senior ministry that is still active today; and

WHEREAS Rita's work involved making personal connections with those who are traditionally ignored, making sure that their voices are heard, ensuring that they have access to appropriate resources to be successful, and centered on organizing precincts in the communities with the most need; and

WHEREAS Rita exemplified Excellence creating programs to propel youth and adults namely, the A.C.T.S. Academic Acts Counseling Training Session Program and the Learning Enhancement Adolescent Program; and

WHEREAS Rita served tirelessly as an educator and community activist was awarded the Oak Leaf Award – NC PTA Board of Managers, First Place Award from the March of Dimes Parent Education Program, Governor's Award from Governor James B. Hunt for Distinguished Meritorious Service, and The Governor's Education First Task Force Award from Governor Michael F. Easley; and

WHEREAS Rita was a dedicated Democrat always extending patience and encouragement devoted a tremendous amount of time to help organize more than 130 precincts at the grassroots level in several counties; and

WHEREAS Rita was elected by North Carolina Democrats to be one of their Hillary Clinton Delegates at the 2016 Democratic National Convention. While in attendance, Rita was one of the winners of the Best Hat Award at the DNC in Philadelphia and featured in several news articles; and

WHEREAS Rita supported the Democratic Party with her heart and actions holding many Wake County and NCDP positions including, Congressional District Minority Chair in the 4th and the 13th districts, Vice Chair of the NCDP Asian American Pacific Islander Caucus, and Chair, Secretary & Treasurer for Wake County Precinct 08-05; and *(cont. next page)*

WHEREAS Rita was granted the 2022 Ronnie Condrey Mentor Award by the Wake County Democratic Party at the 42nd Annual Valentine's Day Hearts of Blue Fundraiser and she was the recipient of the 2016 Unity in Diversity Award "For A Lifetime Of Outstanding Contributions To Unifying The Community" that was awarded at the North Carolina Democratic Party's International Night at the Goodwin House in Raleigh; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the North Carolina Democratic Party honors Rita Francis Alston Roberts for her tireless decades of service; and extends our deepest condolences to the entire Alston and Roberts family members on behalf of the people of Wake County and North Carolina.

CIVIL RIGHTS

RESOLUTION ON ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC INEQUITIES FACED BY THE BLACK COMMUNITY

WHEREAS the Black community is a vital part of the Democratic Party's base and has played a significant role in shaping the party's values and principles; and

WHEREAS the Black community has historically faced systemic inequities in areas such as housing, education, healthcare, criminal justice, and economic opportunity, which have persisted despite some progress; and

WHEREAS these systemic inequities have resulted in unequal access to resources, opportunities, and power, and have contributed to persistent racial disparities in health, education, income, and wealth;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party commits to addressing systemic inequities faced by the Black community through policies that aim to:

1. Address systemic racism in all areas of American life, including housing, education, healthcare, criminal justice, and economic opportunity, and eliminate discriminatory practices and policies.
2. Invest in communities of color by directing resources towards programs and initiatives that promote economic opportunity, affordable housing, quality education, and healthcare, and support small businesses owned by people of color.
3. Reform the criminal justice system to eliminate racial disparities in policing, sentencing, and incarceration, and promote alternatives to incarceration, such as community-based programs and restorative justice.
4. Increase representation of Black people in leadership positions and decision-making roles at all levels of government, including the judicial system, law enforcement, and public education.
5. Provide support and resources for Black-owned businesses, entrepreneurs, and workers, including access to capital, training, and mentorship.
6. Promote voting rights and civic engagement in the Black community, including combating voter suppression and gerrymandering, and expanding access to early voting, mail-in voting, and polling places in underserved communities. *(cont. next page)*

7. Address health disparities in the Black community, including the disproportionate impact of COVID-19, by expanding access to affordable healthcare and investing in community-based health programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party recognizes the vital role of the Black community in our party and in the United States as a whole, and pledges to work towards a future where all people have equal access to opportunities, resources, and power, regardless of their race or ethnicity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by including diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) duties and responsibilities to an appropriate staff member of the Democratic National Committee and its subparts. DEI should be a decision-making factor in all areas, including vendors, staffing, equitable support for candidates, etc.

CALLING ON MUNICIPALITIES IN NORTH CAROLINA TO PASS NONDISCRIMINATION ORDINANCES

WHEREAS North Carolina Democratic Party is committed to promoting equality for all North Carolinians; and

WHEREAS the City/County welcomes all people and recognizes the importance of diversity and the importance of all people being free from discrimination based on race, natural hair or hairstyles, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, pregnancy or familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin or ancestry, National Guard or veteran status, religious belief or non-belief, age, or disability; and

WHEREAS as of December 1, power is restored to cities and towns to pass local ordinances protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination; and

WHEREAS LGBTQ people still lack explicit, constant protections at the local, state and federal level in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS a recent study found that one in three LGBTQ people and three in five transgender people have experienced discrimination in the past year; and

WHEREAS a full 67% of people in North Carolina support protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination per the 2019 American Values Atlas of the Public Religion Research Institute; and

WHEREAS LGBTQ inclusive nondiscrimination laws send a message that everyone is welcome to build a life, raise a family, or start a business; and

WHEREAS North Carolinians aspire to maintain our reputation as the most progressive state in the South by creating communities where no one has to worry about being evicted from their home, turned away from a healthcare provider, or denied service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, now, *(cont. next page)*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on municipalities and counties from Murphy to Manteo to protect the rights of all North Carolinians by passing a nondiscrimination ordinance as sound, effective legislation.

CENTENNIAL AFFIRMATION OF THE VALIDITY OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT (ERA)

WHEREAS, 2023 marks the centennial of the introduction of the first ERA into Congress in 1923 and the continued denial of affirmation of an ERA to the United States Constitution guaranteeing equal rights under the law without regard to sex; and

WHEREAS, women, who constitute over 50% of the population of the United States, play an essential and irreplaceable role in society, contributing to our economy and advancing our nation in both public and private realms; and

WHEREAS, women continue to confront workplace discrimination, wage inequities, health care inequities, higher rates of poverty, rape and domestic violence assaults, a lack of political parity, and other forms of sex-based discrimination that are particularly compounding issues for Black women, Latinas, Indigenous and Native American women, immigrants, LGBTQ+ women, single mothers, and women in the military services; and

WHEREAS, state and federal anti-discrimination laws are not uniform or comprehensive, and can be repealed, amended, or ineffectively applied by the courts; and

WHEREAS the ERA is essential for correcting systemic sex discrimination since it would constitutionally 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 sex”; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is the only industrialized country that does not explicitly recognize the equality of women in its constitution, and 94% of constitutions adopted since 1970 include a rule establishing the equality of women; and

WHEREAS, Article V of the United States Constitution sets out two requirements for amendments: approval by two-thirds of both chambers of Congress, and ratification by 3/4 (38) of the states, and the ERA achieved both requirements with Virginia’s ratification on January 27, 2020; and

WHEREAS, ratifications cannot be undone, as evidenced by the inclusion of our Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth Amendments despite purported rescissions; and

WHEREAS, President Biden called for Congress to affirm the ERA on January 27, 2022, which marks the date that the ERA went into effect on the two-year anniversary of Virginia’s ratification; and

WHEREAS, in January of 2023, congressional resolutions were introduced in the House (HJ Res 25) and Senate (SJ Res 4) by Representative Ayanna Pressley (D-MA) and Senator Ben Cardin (D-MD), respectively, affirming the validity of the ERA and removing the time limit; and (*cont. next page*)

WHEREAS, although passage of the resolutions is not required, Congress can and should act to remove any ambiguity that there is no time limit on equality; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that we support the passage of congressional bills affirming the validity of the ERA and removing an arbitrary time limit in the preamble; and the publication by the National Archivist of the ERA as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

IN OPPOSITION TO ANTISEMITISM

WHEREAS, with the encouragement of Republican leaders including former President Donald Trump, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, and North Carolina Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson, hate speech, harassment, and crimes perpetrated by extremist groups against Jewish People have exploded in number and severity nationally and in North Carolina.

WHEREAS, these domestic acts of hatred include the following incidents:

- On the night of August 11, 2017, Neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klansmen, and other extremists marched through the University of Virginia campus bearing torches and terrorizing students with chants of "Blood and Soil" and "Jews will not replace us;"
- The Tree of Life Synagogue shooting massacre in Pittsburgh killed 11 people and wounded four police officers on October 27, 2018;
- Swastikas were spray-painted on buildings of the Apex Town Hall Campus in December of 2022;
- Antisemitic banners were spread over a highway in Moore County twice in December of 2022;
- Antisemitic remarks were made on an intercom at Enloe High School;
- Extremists planned a "Day of Hate" in February 2023, causing alerts to be issued to Jewish congregations across our country.

WHEREAS, according to the Anti-Defamation League's Audit of antisemitic incidents, the year 2022 reached an all-time high of 3,697 total reported incidents of assault, harassments, and vandalism;

WHEREAS President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. said that "silence is complicity";

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the North Carolina Democratic Party condemns the recent rise of antisemitism in the United States and calls on the North Carolina General Assembly to enact legislation against acts of domestic terrorism committed in the name of antisemitism in North Carolina.

VOTING RIGHTS/FAIR AND OPEN ELECTIONS AND A STRONG PARTY

RESOLUTION FOR A "RIGHT TO VOTE" AMENDMENT

WHEREAS current North Carolina laws do not guarantee a right to vote; and (*cont. next page*)

WHEREAS our federal voting rights laws only protect from disenfranchisement based on specific set of criteria such as sex and race; and

WHEREAS this leaves open possibilities for disenfranchisement based on new reasons and requirements such as voter ID laws; and (*cont. next page*)

WHEREAS the War on Drugs and our legal system has been used to disenfranchise voters by specifically targeting black, minority and poor communities through felony convictions and incarceration; and

WHEREAS a “right to vote” amendment will be required to protect everyone’s right to vote from new restrictions not defined in current voting rights laws; and

WHEREAS a “right to vote” amendment will be required to re-enfranchise our large prison population who were disenfranchised through the application of racially motivated laws; and

WHEREAS, the states of Vermont and Maine have already enfranchised prison inmates.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party work with the Democratic caucus in the General Assembly and the Governor’s office to amend the North Carolina Constitution and make voting rights a fundamental right for all U.S. citizens residing in North Carolina.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the right to vote amendment include the enfranchisement of prison inmates in North Carolina who are U.S. citizens.

Source: <https://www.aclu.org/issues/voting-rights/voter-restoration/felony-disenfranchisement-laws-map>

IN SUPPORT OF CITIZEN BALLOT INITIATIVES

WHEREAS the North Carolina Constitution states that “All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only, and is instituted solely for the good of the whole” (Article I § 2);

WHEREAS the North Carolina Constitution further states that (a)ll elections shall be free” (Article I §§ 8-9)

WHEREAS the General Assembly has engaged in a willful pattern of distorting the rules governing elections and manipulating district boundaries so as to undermine free and fair elections and to thwart the people’s ability to express their will at the ballot box;

WHEREAS the General Assembly has made repeated attempts to make it more difficult for citizens to register and to participate in the democratic process;

WHEREAS “the people of this State reserve the power to amend [the] Constitution” (N.C. Const. art. XIII § 2);

BUT WHEREAS there is no mechanism enabling the people to exercise that power directly so as to secure their right to free and fair elections in the face of an entrenched, intransigent, and unrepresentative General Assembly

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports amending the North Carolina State Constitution to enable the people to propose and approve both legislation and constitutional amendments through citizen initiatives for the purpose of preserving and enhancing democracy in North Carolina.

LABOR/ECONOMY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROACT

WHEREAS since the day the US Dept. of Labor was established, the Republicans Party and corporate America has joined together in a war specifically intended to marginalize and eventually eradicate unions; and,

WHEREAS organizing drives to establish labor unions were originally intended to be a fair and equal process, to both Labor and corporate management. But from the start corporate management with the assistance from the Republican Party has routinely made organizing drives unfairly tilted to their side by routinely breaking labor laws with impunity.

WHEREAS the current process of organizing drives is broken and tilted in favor of the corporate side because the penalties for breaking labor law are so low that corporations routinely figure the cost of fines are so mild as to allow them to break the laws with impunity, and consider the cost of the fines as a routine way of doing business thereby creating an atmosphere of intimidation that completely tilts the process in their favor; and

WHEREAS corporate management has routinely extended the time frame for organizing drives while they use continuing intimidation tactics to force the issue in their favor; and

WHEREAS corporate management has continually broken the current labor laws by routinely firing striking workers and replacing them with permanent replacements.

WHEREAS 13 southern states including North Carolina have initiated “RIGHT TO WORK” laws under the guise of providing individuals the choice to pay union dues or not pay them. These thinly veiled laws have nothing to do with freedom but are specifically intended as “union busting” legislation that deprives unions of their power to marshal corporate attacks on them as a result of being defunded; and

WHEREAS “Right to Work” laws were enacted during the “Jim Crow” period in the south and were specifically intended to act as divisive and racist legislation that led to lower wages, fewer benefits, and more dangerous workplaces; and

WHEREAS research from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows that more than 60 million people would vote today to join a union if given the opportunity. That figure is nearly half of union workers; and *(cont. next page)*

WHEREAS the Gallup organization in their polling found that union approval stands at 65%, one of the highest marks in half a century. *(cont. next page)*

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the ProAct will

1. Allow workers to exercise their freedom to organize and bargain.
2. Ensure that workers can reach a first contract quickly after a union has been organized.
3. End employer's practices of punishing striking workers by hiring permanent replacements.
4. Protect the right for workers to speak up for their labor rights without fear of reprisal.
5. Hold corporations accountable by strengthening the National Labor Relations Board and allow it to penalize employers who retaliate against working people in support of the union and collective bargaining.
6. Repeal "RIGHT TO WORK" laws---divisive and racist laws created during the "Jim Crow" era that led to lower wages, fewer benefits, and more dangerous workplaces; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party fully and enthusiastically supports the passage of the PROACT and the revocation of the "RIGHT TO WORK" legislation and status for North Carolina.

RESOLUTION FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO ALLOW AND SUPPORT UNIONIZATION OF THE NCDP PROFESSIONAL STAFF

WHEREAS in the 2022 cycle the previous director and elected board either directly or indirectly engaged in union busting activities; and

WHEREAS as this was a direct violation of Democratic Party values and allowed Republicans to, correctly and honestly attack Democrats as anti-Labor; and

WHEREAS employees of the NCDP were given their union membership along with termination of employment.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party be required to allow for unionization of its professional staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that union busting/anti-labor activities be added as grounds for removal of any professional staff or elected officer.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CODETERMINATION FOR LARGE CORPORATIONS

WHEREAS codetermination is the practice of workers of an enterprise having the right to elect representatives on the board of directors of a company; and

WHEREAS codetermination is a means of bringing democracy to the workplace; and

WHEREAS codetermination helps reduce management-labor conflicts by improving and establishing communication channels; and

WHEREAS codetermination gives labor greater bargaining power and protecting workers' rights in the workplace; and

WHEREAS codetermination is already practiced by globally successful companies such as BMW, Daimler and Volkswagen.

WHEREAS S.3348 - The Accountable Capitalism Act introduced by Senator Elizabeth Warren in 2020 would require that employees elect 40% of a board of directors for any corporation with over \$1 billion in tax receipts; and

WHEREAS the North Carolina Democratic Party should represent the interest of the working class of North Carolina.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party support establishment of codetermination at the federal level for any publicly traded corporation with over \$1 billion in tax receipts.

Sources:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/3348/text>

<https://prospect.org/labor/codetermination-difference/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/opinion/articles/2018-08-24/why-german-corporate-boards-include-workers-for-co-determination>

RESOLUTION TO CRIMINALIZE WAGE THEFT

WHEREAS NC General Statute § 14-74. Larceny by servants and other employees states:

“If any servant or other employee, to whom any money, goods or other chattels, or any of the articles, securities or choses in action mentioned in G.S. 14-75, by his master shall be delivered safely to be kept to the use of his master; shall withdraw himself from his master and go away with such money, goods or other chattels, or any of the articles, securities or choses in action mentioned as aforesaid, or any part thereof, with intent to steal the same and defraud his master thereof, contrary to the trust and confidence in him reposed by his said master; or if any servant, being in the service of his master, without the assent of his master, shall embezzle such money, goods or other chattels, or any of the articles, securities or choses in action mentioned as aforesaid, or any part thereof, or otherwise convert the same to his own use, with like purpose to steal them, or to defraud his master thereof, the servant so offending shall be guilty of a felony:

Provided, that nothing contained in this section shall extend to apprentices or servants within the age of 16 years. If the value of the money, goods, or other chattels, or any of the articles, securities, or choses in action mentioned in G.S. 14-75, is one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more, the person is guilty of a Class C felony. If the value of the money, goods, or other chattels, or any of the articles, securities, or choses in action mentioned in G.S. 14-75, is less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000), the person is guilty of a Class H felony.”

WHEREAS there is no equivalent criminal penalty for theft by employers from “servants and other employees”.

WHEREAS wage theft affects millions of American workers every year, costing workers an estimated 15 billion dollars a year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party affirms that workers are entitled to the full value of their labor and condemn wage theft in all its forms, including but not limited to:

1. payment below the minimum wage.
2. withholding agreed upon wages (this includes overtime on commissions, piece rate, and regular wages).
3. not accruing or not being allowed to use paid sick leave.
4. not paying promised vacations or bonuses.
5. requesting job duties be performed outside of compensated time.
6. not paying final wages in a timely manner.
7. withholding unauthorized deductions (not otherwise provided for in law);
8. denying required or promised meal breaks, rest breaks, or preventative cool-down breaks,
9. managers or owners taking tips.
10. failing to reimburse business expenses.
11. bounced paychecks.
12. withholding or denying reporting time pay; or
13. misclassifying employees as independent contractors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation designating any person who deprives employees of owed compensation to be guilty of wage theft.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Carolina Democratic Party support legislation such that any person committing wage theft from an employee totaling less than \$100,000 is guilty of a class H felony, and any person committing wage theft from employees totaling \$100,000 or more is guilty of a class C felony.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that each instance of theft, among multiple employees or separate occurrences with the same employee, being its own offense.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE

WHEREAS, the pursuit of individual freedom and the ability to live in a country where democracy is the form of government is a right protected by international law; and

WHEREAS, we condemn the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, its aggression against the free people of Ukraine, the human rights violations committed against the people of Ukraine, and its indiscriminate bombing and destruction of Ukraine; and

WHEREAS, we believe that opposition to economic, social, and military aid for Ukraine must be viewed as undemocratic, embracing of authoritarianism, and as encouragement for other authoritarian governments around the world to engage in acts of aggression towards other countries; and

WHEREAS this will result in the collapse of world order that will result in United States involvement militarily throughout the world; (*cont. next page*)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports continued economic, social, and military aid to the Democratic Government of Ukraine until Russia ceases its invasion and withdraws from the sovereign nation of Ukraine.

ENVIRONMENT

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE USE OF LOCAL SOLAR AND STORAGE IN CARBON PLANNING

WHEREAS, solar and storage has a levelized cost of \$42-69/MWh; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina has 86 GW of PV potential in North Carolina on rooftops, commercial parking lots, urban parcels, and brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, solar and storage can be built near its point of use, cutting down on transmission project costs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NC Democratic Party urges new appointees to the North Carolina Utilities Commission should be committed to moving toward local solar with battery storage as the backbone of the statewide electricity system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the State and Federal Government shall fund publicly owned wind, solar, geothermal, and storage resources, with the goal of US energy production becoming 100% carbon neutral by 2040.

CALLING ON THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE BY PASSING CARBON FEE AND DIVIDEND LEGISLATION

WHEREAS 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 poses a serious threat to the State of North Carolina in terms of economy, public health and the environment and

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

WHEREAS more frequent heavy storms are expected to increase flooding, threatening infrastructure and

WHEREAS as temperature 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 Congress has the responsibility to act swiftly and meaningfully on the issue of climate change and

WHEREAS Legislation addressing climate change should not economically overburden people in the State of North Carolina and

WHEREAS Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation will greatly help fight climate change, and is a new economic boost to residents of the State of North Carolina and its vicinity, now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party calls on the United States Congress to address climate change by passing a Carbon Fee and Dividend Bill as sound, effective legislation.

HEALTHCARE

RESOLUTION ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH VIA CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

WHEREAS, consistent with the 14th Amendment of the Constitution, its limits on governmental powers, and the Bill of Rights, that no state government or institution may restrict rights and/or grant or allow greater liberties to any one-person, individual group, or specified groups; and

WHEREAS, the term 'Person(s)', used in the 14th amendment, refers to the common accepted definition of the word, with no exclusions based on gender, race, ethnicity, age, sexual designation, or preference, nor physical attributes or any such affectations; and

WHEREAS the amendment refers to all people (U.S. citizens), not any one group, with no differentiation of rights between genders, or based on race, ethnicity, age, sexual designation or preference, and physical attributes or any such affectations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That women have complete control over their bodies and healthcare decisions, and we believe the 14th amendment of the Constitution guarantees this control, as it does for every male citizen.
2. That a woman's decisions regarding pregnancy should be her own choice and not that of the government.
3. That abortion procedures must be safe, legal, accessible to all North Carolina women regardless of ability to pay; therefore, the State abortion fund should be fully funded and accessible to indigent women.
4. That every woman, including trans-identified individuals, should have access to prenatal and postnatal care, appropriate counseling, as well as access to information regarding all choices related to pregnancies. (*cont. next page*)
5. That we should focus on preventing unintended pregnancies and reducing the need for abortion through increasing access to family planning services, access to affordable birth control, including emergency contraception, and by providing comprehensive age-appropriate sex education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the North Carolina General Assembly must insure people's rights to reproductive freedom and complete bodily autonomy, as reflected by the 14th amendment's equal protection and non-discrimination clause.

RESOLUTION TO BAN BALANCE-BILLING

WHEREAS balance-billing is when a provider charges a patient for the difference between the provider's stated price for a service/procedure and the allowed amount negotiated with the insurance company, and.

WHEREAS these bills can exceed the maximum out of pocket limit of a patient's health insurance coverage, at times by hundreds of thousands of dollars; and

WHEREAS these additional costs do not count towards meeting the maximum out of pocket limits set by healthcare insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS these practices create significant uncertainty and risk of financial hardship for North Carolina residents; and

WHEREAS there is currently no protection for North Carolina residents from these practices for non-ER visits which are available in other states in the country.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party, in order to protect patient financial security for anyone insured in the state of North Carolina, supports banning the practice of balance-billing in North Carolina.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OPPOSING CUTS TO SOCIAL SECURITY, MEDICARE, AND MEDICAID

WHEREAS, members of the Republican party have proposed cutting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid to balance the United States Federal Budget, and to agree to increase the Debt Ceiling of the United States;

WHEREAS members of the Republican party claim not to be cutting these programs for current or soon-to-be recipients of these programs, but they are gaslighting them as to their overall intentions. They plan to divide individuals in the 20's, 30's and 40's scaring them that these programs will not be around when they are in their 60's; and claim that by privatizing the investments will prove to be financially better for them when they are in their 60's;

WHEREAS, about 40% of older Americans rely exclusively on Social Security for retirement income, according to recent research from the National Institute on Retirement Security;

WHEREAS, Before Medicare, 48 percent of Americans 65 and older had no insurance; today, that figure is just 2 percent. Today, older Americans pay 13 percent of their health care expenses directly out-of-pocket, compared with 56 percent in 1966. By ensuring access to care, Medicare has contributed to a five-year increase in life expectancy at age 65.

WHEREAS, to be willing to live in a world without Medicare, the economists estimate, the elderly would need to be paid \$27,700 in compensation. Jan 3, 2018

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, That the North Carolina Democratic Party opposes cuts to Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid whether you are currently utilizing these programs, are soon to be utilizing these programs, or you still have 10, 20, or 30 years before becoming eligible for these programs.

HOUSING

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A REAL APPROACH TO HOUSING POLICY

WHEREAS The availability, quality, cost, and location of housing matter to all Americans. Where people live affect the jobs they can get, the schools their children can attend, and the kind of community they live in. Rents rose faster over the previous year than they have in the past 20 years, leaving many low- and medium-income renters priced out of their homes. Affordable housing is generally defined as housing costs not exceeding 30% of household income.

BE IT RESOLVED that we support the following forms of housing relief at the local, state, and federal levels of government:

1. Continue to provide federal funds for rental and mortgage assistance to persons caught by inflationary housing costs.
2. Include immigrants, regardless of status, in subsidized rent and mortgage payments.
3. Pass the Housing Survivors of Major Disasters Act (H.R., 3037, 2022) to address barriers preventing access to FEMA aid and ensure that expanded options for proving home ownership apply retroactively.
4. Pass federal legislation to permanently implement HUD's Mixed-Status Rule to provide access to federal housing assistance regardless of immigration status of family members.
5. Promote state and local rental assistance programs to provide emergency rental and utility costs assistance and provide resources for homeowners struggling with mortgage payments.
6. Enforce the federal enforcement mechanisms of the Fair Housing Act (Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968) including punitive damages and attorneys' fees as the Act provides.
7. Support and enforce fair housing provisions of the North Carolina Human Right Act that apply to persons discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical or mental handicaps, and family status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the following economic recovery initiatives:

1. Pass the Green New Deal for Public Housing Act, to retrofit public housing and provide workforce training, and workforce training subsidies for residents.
2. Enact a federal Home Owners Loan Corporation (HOLC) modeled after the HOLC provided in Roosevelt's New Deal; ensure loans are available to all.
3. Repeal the Faircloth Amendment, which bans any net increase in public housing units.
4. Increase funding for affordable housing programs at HUD and the USDA by increasing block grants to states to build, rehabilitate, or preserve housing targeted to extremely low income (ELI) households.
5. Allow underwater homeowners to write down principal to the value of the property and refinance to take advantage of cheap federal credit, limited to the price of the median home following the guidelines of President Obama's Plan to Help Responsible Homeowners.
6. Provide civil and criminal penalties against mortgage holders and related mortgage service providers for deceptive practices during repackaging and refinance negotiations; require explanation of optional payback choices, such as paying at end of loan term.
7. Publicly funded universal childcare shall be provided.
8. Join with the National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) to support the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding (CHCDF), a coalition working to increase resources for affordable housing and community development.
9. Publicize the availability to North Carolina jurisdictions of HOME-ARP funds from the America Rescue Plan to assist vulnerable populations such as individuals and households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the following policy reforms to improve housing affordability for North Carolina residents:

1. Subsidize housing equitably between homeowners and renters, e.g., federal mortgage-interest deduction (MID) and capital gains exemptions on homeowners.
2. Increase the supply of affordable housing by including funds for the repair of existing units, including weatherization/energy efficiency, and construction of new units in any infrastructure package.
3. Include housing investments for America's low-income households in any infrastructure package.
4. Revise "not in my backyard" NIMBY zoning codes enacted by municipalities and counties that restrict high-density projects such as building heights.
5. Encourage local and state governments to revise building codes to increase the availability of high-density housing. The average rent in North Carolina increased 20% from Jan. 2021 to Jan. 2022.
6. Encouraging public transit-oriented developments.
7. Require developers to include a certain number of affordable units within a larger market-rate development
8. Achieve net zero carbon footprint for all residences by 2050.
9. Increase funding for USDA and HUD programs, including those that provide funding to support affordable housing in rural areas and on Native American tribal lands.
10. Address housing barriers to successful reentry into their communities for the nearly one in three Americans with a criminal record.