

**NFDW 2017 Resolutions Summaries from Chairperson Judy Villa for
Presentation at the 46th National Convention in Atlanta**

1. Resolution Advocating Measures to Restore Democracy: Citing the inalienable rights of human beings outlined in the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, this resolution argues that those constitutional rights and protections are not extended to corporations, nor is the right to free speech guaranteed to human beings unequivocally guaranteed to human-made entities. The Supreme Court Citizens United and McCutcheon rulings granting corporations unlimited fundraising to support or oppose candidates or ballot initiatives undermine free and fair elections.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women urges the passage of state and federal legislation which clearly states corporations are not people with constitutional rights and that money does not equal first amendment speech.

2. Resolution Encouraging Women to Run for Elected Office: Citing women's increasing interest in standing for election, their under-representation in Congress and Statewide executive offices; and further citing women's collaborative and communication skills and willingness to enlist experts' assistance to seek solutions to societal problems, this resolution seeks to combat practices that under-recruit and discourage women from running for public office at the local, state, and federal level.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The National Federation of Democratic Women enthusiastically encourages Democratic women to run for elected office across the nation at the local, state, and national levels, not only to serve in elected office, but to set an example for generations of women leaders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The National Federation of Democratic Women calls on its members to stand ready to support those women who do step forward as candidates.

3. Resolution on Public Education: Citing the crucial role of public education in reducing economic inequality and eradicating poverty, and advocating equal access to high quality programs in safe environments for all students; this resolution denounces recently proposed legislation that advocates the use of public funds to pay for vouchers for school choice as well as the repeal of the Elementary and Secondary School Education Act. Referencing research that concludes the voucher/choice plan would not resolve the education gap, this resolution challenges the notion that taxpayers' money should fund private or religious education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The National Federation of Democratic Women opposes all legislation which promotes the use of vouchers as a means of achieving the goal of educational equality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NFDW advocates that public funds should be used to increase equity, excellence and opportunities for all students grades K-12, support teachers and local school leadership as they provide early childhood education, enhancement and increased family and community involvement, STEM/STEAM education, and extra-curricular programs that help to prepare all students to succeed in our global economy.

4. Resolution Supporting Fair and Just Immigration Reform: Citing the American legacy of providing refuge to those seeking freedom, opportunity, and democracy; and acknowledging immigrants' contributions to our economy and society, this resolution denounces President Trump's and Congressional House leadership's anti-immigrant policies, especially the threat to deport 8,000,000 undocumented people, thus causing extreme fear and uncertainty, especially for children facing separation from their parents. Highlighting the mistreatment and abuse of LGBTQ immigrants placed in detention in the U.S. and the extreme dangers they face if deported to countries where they are persecuted and even put to death, the resolution calls for humane action.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Federation of Democratic Women opposes the Trump Administration's anti-immigrant efforts and supports federal

comprehensive immigration reform to provide undocumented immigrants with a pathway to citizenship.

5. Resolution to Protect Women's Health Care: Citing studies that show women with chronic diseases are under-diagnosed and under-treated, leading to delayed treatment and higher mortality rate, stating that prenatal care is critical, and decrying the probable loss of health access for 24,000,000 people, this resolution condemns the efforts of the Trump administration to repeal the Affordable Care Act. The effect of defunding programs that assist women, especially low income women, such as Planned Parenthood and the UN Population Fund, would be devastating. Removing access to health care for low and moderate income citizens creates death panels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women shall oppose the dismantling of the Affordable Care Act, including the elimination of coverage for pre-existing conditions, access to affordable birth control and prenatal care, the defunding of Planned Parenthood, and the defunding of the UN Population Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NFDW shall work to preserve and even increase the funding for all programs that protect women's reproductive and general health care.

6. Resolution on Pay Equity: Avowing that pay equity is needed to eliminate sex and race discrimination in wages, and citing previous (1963 and 1981) legislation and a Supreme Court ruling that prohibit wage discrimination based on gender, this resolution focuses on the continuing pay gap between men and women. Reversing the 2016 Pay Equity for All Act making it unlawful for an employer to screen employees based on previous salary history, on April 27, 2017, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that employers can legally pay women less than men for the same work based on previous salary differences.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women shall advocate for strong legislation to close loopholes in existing laws by having Congress strengthen penalties for equal pay violations and prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' wage practices and further shall advocate for enhancing pay transparency and data collection in order to close the

gender pay gap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NFDW shall support federal legislation now in Congress, including The Paycheck Fairness Act (S.862, H.R. 1619), which strengthens and updates the Equal Pay Act of 1963. The bill expands damages under the Equal Pay Act and amends its very broad fourth affirmative defense. Further, the NFDW shall support The Fair Pay Act sponsored by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC), which seeks to end wage discrimination against those who work in female-dominated or minority-dominated jobs by establishing equal pay for equivalent work and protecting workers on the basis of race or national origin.

7. Resolution on Sexual Assault on College Campuses: Citing the disgraceful and shocking statistics that one in five women and one in sixteen men who attended college between 2011 and 2015 reported being sexually assaulted, and that the Violence Against Women Act condemns the deplorable behavior of sexual assault; this resolution questions why a large percentage colleges do not conduct any investigations despite the Title IX strict guidelines for procedures to handle sexual assault on campus.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women shall support local, state, and federal legislation and policies to address sexual violence on college campuses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NFDW support the Campus Accountability and Safety Act that has been introduced in Congress.

8. Resolution on Missing and Exploited Children: Given the increased attention regarding the spiraling number of missing children across the country, especially among blacks and minorities; the gang violence increasing the number of young victims abducted and forced into a subculture of drugs, violence, and prostitution; and the horrible FBI statistic that nearly a half a million children went missing in 2015 and in 2016; and that a significant percentage of those missing children were likely sex trafficking victims; and that the total number of missing children is hard to estimate due to under-reporting, the following action is proposed:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women encourages: 1) an increased number of well-trained officers be assigned to local child and family service divisions to work on missing children cases; 2) an expansion of missing children websites and social media messaging to include case catalog with broader information; 3) additional grant support be provided to government and non-profit agencies that address the issues of runaway or missing youth, including young adults forced into prostitution; and support an improved, national public education and public awareness program to highlight the growing threat of missing and exploited youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women shall advocate for effective legislation and encourage its members to lobby local, state and national elected leaders to reduce the proliferation of missing and exploited children including children victimized by sexual abuse; and encourage its members to be vigilant in monitoring social media sites that publicize information about children who have been recently lost or abducted; and each state chapter of The National Federation of Democratic Women shall transmit a copy of this resolution to their President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

9. Resolution Supporting Legislation to Combat Addiction to Prescription and Illicit Drugs: Current policies and laws, the failed War on Drugs, and the increasing criminalization of drug users have not stemmed the meteoric rise in abuse of opioids and deaths from opioids and heroin specifically. Since medical and mental health treatment rather than law enforcement and incarceration are more effective ways to decrease drug abuse, addiction should be viewed as a chronic illness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women shall advocate for effective legislation to adequately fund a method to increase medical treatment facilities and programs for prescriptive and illegal drug abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NFDW shall advocate for effective legislation to stem the tide of illegal drugs coming into the country and to reduce the abuse of writing and distributing prescription drugs.

10. Resolution in Support of Vice-President Joe Biden's Efforts to Cure Cancer: Citing the alarming fact that cancer is the second leading cause of death in the U.S. and that the Center for Disease Control predicts that prostate, lung, colorectal, and female breast cancer cases are increasing; and recognizing that President Obama appointed Vice-President Joe Biden to head the "moonshot" to find a cure for cancer, and the former Vice-President has worked diligently to secure funding from the NIH, which funding should be preserved;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Federation of Democratic Women will support Vice-President Joe Biden's work to find a cure for cancer, and we will devote our time and talents to help educate our fellow Americans and to encourage all citizens' dedication to support this critically important work.

11. Resolution Commending The Carter Center's Work to Prevent Guinea Worm Disease: The Carter Center is a leader in elimination of life-threatening and fatal diseases, partnering with ministries of health and local communities, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WHO, and UNICEF, and others to employ health education and low-cost methods of prevention and treatment. Because Guinea worm is a horrific debilitating illness afflicting 3.5 million people, the Carter Center made eradicating it a priority, and now Guinea worm disease is set to become the second human disease in history to be eradicated and the first to be conquered without vaccine.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women commends the phenomenal work executed by The Carter Center that is leading to the eradication of Guinea worm.

12. Resolution to Support Legislation Removing Taxation on Personal Hygiene Products: Forty states tax tampons and other menstrual products while products such as Viagra, lip balm, and dandruff shampoo fall under tax-exemptions in most states. States collect millions of dollars annually from taxing feminine hygiene necessities, yet some forward-thinking state legislatures have introduced bills to remove such taxes, viewing them as unfair to women. A 2016 Act in the House of Representatives amends the IRS Code to provide a refundable tax credit, adjusted

for inflation after 2017, and limited to taxpayers with incomes below specified amounts.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women will

- Support all legislative efforts to repeal taxes on feminine hygiene, tampon and incontinence products
- Support granting a medical product tax exemption for feminine hygiene, tampon and incontinence products;
- Support all legal efforts filed to block imposition of tampon taxes or seek refund of taxes imposed on feminine hygiene, tampon and incontinence products;
- Join forces with other women's organizations and advocacy groups supporting the repeal of taxes or institution of medical tax exemption of feminine hygiene, tampon and incontinence products;
- Support all online and social media campaigns advocating the repeal of taxes or the medical tax exemption of feminine hygiene, tampon and incontinence products;
- Work with state legislatures to fund the repeal of this tax or the creation of a medical exemption thereof; and
- Make this legislative effort part of each of our state chapter Women in Blue Advocacy efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each state chapter of The National Federation of Democratic Women shall transmit a copy of this resolution to the President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

13. Resolution Supporting a Carbon Fee and Dividend: Since greenhouse gases are considered major contributors to climate change and sea level rise in Florida and other coastal states. The energy market fails to price in costs other than production and transportation, so the external costs of energy use are borne by society in the form of pollution. Citizens' Climate Lobby has proposed a steadily increasing revenue-neutral carbon fee to be leveled at the point of production and also proposed a dividend as incentive to motivate conservation by consumers and the adoption of renewable energy practices to control carbon emissions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women requests the United States Congress to act with urgency to pass legislation that levies an annually increasing revenue neutral fee and dividend on fossil fuels.

14. Resolution Supporting the Congressional “Sit-in” for Gun Law Reform: Citing the terrible massacre of June 13, 2016, at an Orlando night club, denouncing such hate crimes and acts of terror that have become too commonplace in our country, and condemning the vapid response from Congress to such tragedies, this resolution praises John Lewis and Democratic members of Congress for their “sit-in” demanding that leadership call a vote on common sense gun law reform.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women stands in solidarity with the Democratic members of the U.S. House of Representatives to demand that the leadership do its job and allow a vote on common sense gun law reform.

15. Resolution Advocating Firearm Safety: Referencing the ever-expanding number of handguns and multi-round capacity firearms in the hands of citizens and the accompanying increase in shootings where many have been killed or wounded; and also faulting current laws that do not provide universal background checks on any and all sales and transfers nor on persons on the no-fly list; this resolution challenges laws such as the Florida Firearms Preemption Statute that prohibits local governments from passing and enforcing laws concerning firearms, resulting in inadequate laws to protect all citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women urges local, state and federal representatives to pass and implement ordinances, regulations and legislation that prohibit the possession, sale or transfer of all multi-round high capacity firearms and their multi-round clips and magazines; require universal background checks and appropriate waiting periods on all firearm sales and transfers; prohibit the sale or transfer of any firearm to any person on the federal no-fly list, and repeal all existing firearms preemption statutes prohibiting the passage of local laws concerning firearms.

16. Resolution Honoring Hillary Rodham Clinton: Citing Hillary Rodham Clinton’s distinguished career as a lawyer, First Lady of Arkansas, First Lady of the United States, first female Senator of New York, and 67th Secretary of State, and, making history, first female presidential nominee of a major political party; this resolution

praises her lifetime dedication to public service and social causes. She is applauded for her work for children's and women's rights and inspired millions of women and girls worldwide. Her dignity, intelligence, and courage deserve our respect.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women acknowledges, honors, admires, respects, and is in deep gratitude to Hillary Rodham Clinton for her historical accomplishments, her persistence, her resistance, her powerful impact splintering the glass ceiling and for always standing strong. We are fired up, enthusiastic and inspired to continue to work for a fair and just society because of her.

17. Resolution Commending Rosalynn Carter for Her Lifelong Commitment to Public Service: Recognizing her unparalleled humanitarian successes throughout the U.S. and the world as First Lady of Georgia and the United States, co-founder and V-P of the Carter Center and the Carter Work Project for Habitat for Humanity, this resolution highlights Rosalynn Carter's leadership in mental health care and the fight against discrimination toward the mentally ill. Her efforts for over thirty years have made possible the annual national Symposium on Mental Health Policy; she also played a key role in the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, which ensures mental illnesses are covered by insurance. Her work on behalf of senior citizens has likewise been outstanding as she lobbied against age discrimination in the workplace, for funding of elderly services, and for Social Security reforms.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women commends Rosalynn Carter for her ongoing work to improve the lives of all citizens of the United States and the world and expresses what an honor it is to have her representing all women.

18. Resolution in Appreciation of Joanne Sullivan's Service to the NFDW: With much gratitude for her leadership during her Presidency of NFDW from June 2015-June 2017, this resolution recognizes her life of devotion to others. Citing her career as a teacher and administrator, her lifelong commitment to education, and her community service as an elected member of the East Hartford, CT Town Council, members also pay homage to her decades of helping elect Democrats to office. Her continued dedication to the ideals of the Federation is evidenced by her

holding offices at the chapter, state, and national levels as well as her outreach to other countries interested in NFDW ideals. Her tireless efforts on behalf of the organization, women in politics, and women everywhere have been fulfilled with professionalism, grace, and friendship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Members of the NFDW appreciate all that Joanne Sullivan has done for the organization, women in politics and women everywhere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the NFDW thank Joanne Sullivan, wishing her the very best and look forward to sharing many future NFDW experiences and conventions with her.

19. Resolution in Appreciation of Georgia Federation's Hospitality: The Georgia Federation of Democratic Women has welcomed all of us to the NFDW 46th Annual Convention with the warmest Southern hospitality and provided a venue conducive to camaraderie and vibrant exchange of ideas. The events, guest speakers, breakout sessions, and table conversations have been enriching and inspiring. Georgia Chairpersons worked for many months, collaborating with the NFDW Committee Chairs to organize this Convention that encourages us all to "keep on keeping on" and return to our states determined to work even harder for issues and candidates that advance democratic and Democratic values.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NFDW declares our gratitude and warm regard for the Georgia Federation and will encourage women in our home states to attend future conventions as NFDW continues "Expanding Possibilities and Defining the Future."

Adopted by: NFDW Membership at the 46th Annual Convention, June 10, 2017