



The Platform and Resolutions committee met on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. The following resolutions comprise the Platform and Resolutions Committee report to the 2020 SCDP Convention.

The Committee moves adoption of the report.

Stewart Weinberg  
Co-Chair, Platform and Resolutions Committee

Pamela Brandon  
Co-Chair, Platform and Resolutions Committee

## **RESOLUTION 1**

### **COVID-19 Healthcare and Essential Workers Bill of Rights**

Whereas, all healthcare workers have the right to appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE);

Whereas, healthcare facilities must provide healthcare workers with a guaranteed access to rapid, point-of-care testing whether they have COVID-19 symptoms or not;

Whereas, the healthcare facilities must provide a safe work environment by requiring that all visitors and workers wear masks and adhere to social distancing. Ensure that engineering controls, like ventilation systems meet necessary standards for preventing the spread of COVID-19;

Whereas, healthcare facilities must ensure staffing levels that keep healthcare workers and patients safe;

Whereas, healthcare facilities must provide training and continued training on aJI COYID-19 protocols for the safe and effective execution of healthcare workers duties;  
Whereas, healthcare facilities must provide access to high-quality mental healthcare services to employees at no cost;

Whereas, healthcare facilities need to provide safe, high-quality nearby housing accommodations for healthcare workers who choose not to return home in order to limit exposure to their family members;

Whereas, not to compromise patient care, healthcare workers should be allowed to work from home. Healthcare facilities should arrange for proper equipment/technology needed to do so effectively.

Whereas, healthcare workers should have input in decisions on staffing, PPE, infection control protocols, surge planning, and any other changes that impact their work;

Whereas, healthcare workers should never be disciplined/fired for blowing the whistle on hospitaJ failures;

Whereas, healthcare workers need additional paid time off to care for themselves and/or their families;

Whereas, healthcare workers presumptive eligibility for workers compensation for COVID-19 illness;

Whereas, healthcare facilities should provide support for childcare for healthcare workers working during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whereas, every employee, including employees of contractors and subcontractors, should be able to do perform their job safely, which means having necessary amounts of personal protective equipment provided by employers at no cost to the employee;

Whereas, during this pandemic, essential workers should also be paid a robust premium to recognize the critical contribution they are making to our health and our economy.

Whereas, collective bargaining agreements must be protected from being changed or dissolved by employers during this crisis;

Whereas, employees must have universal paid sick leave and family and medical leave which provides 14 days of paid sick leave and 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave, so essential workers can care for themselves, family members, or dependents, without being required to submit unnecessary paperwork;

Whereas, workers who witness unsafe conditions on the job or are aware of workplace coronavirus exposure must be able to openly identify their concerns and have them addressed, without fear of retaliation.

Whereas, this pandemic has exposed a problem whereby, employers are misclassifying workers as independent contract workers in order to avoid paying benefits that are available to employees;

Whereas, all essential workers should get the care they need during this crisis, including those who are uninsured or under-insured, regardless of their immigration status. We must use public programs to provide no-cost health care coverage for all;

Whereas, the SCDP should work to ensure discrimination because of sexual orientation be strictly prohibited in the testing, treatment, and contact tracking related to combating the pandemic.

Therefore, we must commit funding to help these providers and ensure essential workers have access to reliable, safe, healthy, and high-quality child care;

Therefore; let it be resolved A Voice in Democracy, to freely exercise our democratic voice through voting and civic participation so that we can make sure our government stands up for this COVID-19 Healthcare & Essential Workers' Bill of Rights.

Therefore, let it be resolved any time a public health crisis hits, the state should work with employers and workers to craft a response and set safety and compensation standards. Essential workers, and their unions and organizations, must be at the table in developing responses to coronavirus -from determining specific workplace safety protocols to helping develop plans for distributing PPE to holding seats on the State Coronavirus Task Force.

## **RESOLUTION 2**

### **Single Use Plastics at Democratic Events**

Whereas, Single use disposable items are expensive to landfills and are increasingly difficult to recycle, and,

Whereas, Plastic and other trash are a hazard to animals and humans through entanglement, ingestion and disruption of the endocrine system, and,

Whereas, this nuisance trash is entirely avoidable, is an eyesore and pollutes our farmlands, timberlands, waterways, beaches and the ocean, and,

Whereas, According to the Worldwatch Institute the average American family consumes 1,500 plastic shopping bags and as an entire nation throws away 100 billion plastic bags annually, and

Whereas, In 2014, The Citadel estimated that about 7.5 tons - 15,000 pounds of plastic can be found in the Charleston Harbor at any given time, and

Whereas, A study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that the COVID-19 virus can survive up to 72 hours on stainless steel and plastic surfaces and on cardboard up to 24 hours, and

Whereas, Single-Use Plastic is harmful because it is non-biodegradable, toxic, and dangerous. When it degrades into plastic particles on land, it makes the soil less fertile. In water it chokes our ponds, rivers and oceans and harms both freshwater and marine life through toxicity, suffocation, strangulation, and starvation ...It has been determined that approximately 100 MILLION marine animals are killed by plastics during the course of each year and

Whereas, Plastics leach chemicals into food, water, and other beverages and disrupt human hormonal systems, and

Whereas, Americans use 50 billion plastic water bottles per year, of which only ¼ make it to the recycling bin, and throw away 6 million tons of plastic utensils every year, and

Therefore, the SC Democratic Party will stop using single use plastic at all Democratic functions/events - leading by example and thus, recognizing that single use plastics never totally break down.

Therefore, the South Carolina Democratic party will support measures to regulate and reduce plastic and other disposable trash from the waste stream and,

Be it further resolved that the South Carolina Democratic Party opposes ordinances and legislation that would interfere with state and local governments' ability to reduce their waste stream.

## **RESOLUTION 3**

### **Presidential Tax Returns**

Whereas, the current President, Donald John Trump, has not fully disclosed his taxes or other relevant documents to run for President of the United States;

Whereas, A fully informed electorate is vital to a free democracy;

Whereas, full disclosure of the 10 most recent years of federal taxes could help educate voters, and inform voters of possible conflicts of interest, both financial and ethical;

Therefore, the SCDP supports the adoption of legislation requiring the full and complete disclosure of all presidential candidates' Federal and State tax returns which will be considered a public benefit and in the spirit of a public good.

## **RESOLUTION 4**

### **Funding of Schools**

Whereas South Carolina ranks at the bottom of the 50 states in education and in teacher salaries and;

Whereas quality education is essential to the economic and civic well being of our state and;

Whereas, next to parents, teachers are the most important determiner of the quality of a student's education;

Whereas, all students in South Carolina deserve to attend fully-funded schools;

Whereas, increasing the funding of schools improves the lives of children and the future of our state;

Therefore, be it resolved that South Carolina will raise teacher salaries in order to attract better teachers and will commit more of the state budget to funding education;

Therefore, be it resolved that the SCDP supports increasing the base cost per student by \$100 and fully-funding this base cost for all schools in our state;

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Carolina Democratic Party will ensure that candidates for office and elected officials will commit to fully funding the needs of under-served K-12 education throughout the state and particularly those school systems in rural communities to above a "basic" level.

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Carolina Democratic Party will assist in the production of legislation and lobbying efforts to ensure that this additional educational support, receives direct legislative action without delay.

Be it further resolved, that we Democrats commit our actions, time, ideas, energy and. treasury toward ensuring successful passage of legislation supporting this resolution.

## **RESOLUTION 5**

### **Immigration Reform**

Whereas current immigration policy treats every individual seeking refuge in the U.S. as a criminal, even though seeking refuge is not illegal,

Whereas building a wall is wasteful of taxpayer dollars and, whereas there are much cheaper and more effective ways of controlling illegal immigration,

Whereas the current court system can't efficiently handle the current caseloads of immigrants,

Therefore be it resolved that construction of a wall should be stopped immediately, except for replacement or repair of existing fences or barriers.

Therefore be it resolved that Section 1325 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, which applies a criminal, rather than civil violation to people apprehended at the border, be repealed; and end detention, except in serious criminal cases; and end immigration enforcement activities at houses of worship and courthouses.

Therefore, be it resolved that we need to create an efficient and independent immigration court system, including increasing the number of judges in order to reduce wait times and handle the backlog of cases, and be it further resolved that there should be increased access to legal assistance for individuals and families seeking asylum at all ports of entry, without regard to location along the southern border.

## **RESOLUTION 6**

### **Adoption Discrimination & LGBTQ Rights**

Whereas: members of the LGBTQ community have experienced discrimination in South Carolina and we as members of the LGBTQ community are prohibited for adoption/foster care, and, in some cases prohibited from military service;

Whereas: The Governor of South Carolina has issued a waiver to permit Christian adoption agencies to restrict adoptions by LGBTQ individuals and non-Christians;

Whereas: Individuals who are LGBTQ, Muslim, and other nonChristian religions may not be allowed to adopt children from Christian adoption agencies;

Whereas, Conversion Therapy, a pseudoscientific form of therapy used to attempt to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of patients, is legal in the state of South Carolina,

Whereas, conversion therapy is not supported by the American Psychiatric Association, or the World Health Organization because of the harm it causes those subjected to it and the lack of scientific evidence supporting the practice,

Therefore, be it resolved that the South Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation banning the practice of conversion therapy, especially when practiced on minors.

Therefore be it resolved, the South Carolina Democratic Party will advocate for equal rights for all, including the LGBTQ population and will only support candidates who are running for office who commit to equal rights for all citizens and who will actively work to pass laws that do not discriminate or infringe on the equal rights of all citizens of South Carolina.

Therefore be it further resolved, That SCDP take all necessary action to ensure the end of the waiver that permits Christian adoption agencies to discriminate against LGBTQ individuals and non-Christians.



## **RESOLUTION 7**

### **Hate Crime Extension by Association**

Whereas, Hate Crime Laws exist to protect individuals and groups i.e. Gender Identification, Race, Ethnicity;

Whereas, There are people not defined as part of these groups who actively support them and their rights;

Whereas, South Carolina is 1 of only 4 states in the United States without any form of hate crime legislation,

Whereas, the South Carolina 2019-2020 legislative session has included the introduction of multiple hate crime bills including House Bills 3063, 4680, and 3068 and Senate Bill 934

Whereas, the State of South Carolina does not require law enforcement to record incidence of hate crimes,

Whereas, at least one quarter of transgender people have experienced anti-transgender motivated physical assault, and hate crimes regarding gender identity disproportionately impact transgender women of color,

Therefore, that the South Carolina Democratic Party supports the addition of hate crime legislation to amend existing laws to include criminal prosecution for hate crimes,

Therefore be it further resolved, that the South Carolina Democratic Party supports legislation to allow for civil penalties for hate crimes independent of criminal prosecution,

Therefore be it further resolved, any person who attends or associates with an organization or individual who are protected under the current hate Crime and is attacked or slandered for this association, then this action would be considered a hate crime against this individual.

## **RESOLUTION 8**

### **SCDP Archives and History**

Whereas, there are unique items of historic importance to the SCDP, currently in the custody of Individuals, and;

Whereas, collecting, preserving, and displaying said items serves to advance the institutional understanding of who we are as the SCDP;

Whereas, the amended 2018 Report of the Platform and Resolutions Committee Approved by the South Carolina Democratic Party Convention has never been publicly posted

Whereas, the South Carolina Democratic Party strives for transparency in its communication,

Therefore be it resolved, that a committee of Archives and History be established and funded to preserve the history and records of the SCDP.

Therefore, be it further resolved, that the State Party shall post the Report of the Platform and Resolutions Committee Approved by the South Carolina Democratic Party Convention on the South Carolina Democratic Party website such that it is publicly available no later than 45 days after the conclusion of the state convention.

## **RESOLUTION 9**

### **Responsible Development**

Whereas, developers choose to bring business to our neighborhood that they be mindful of how to make it equitable;

Whereas, developers who do not allocate funds for affordable housing and prioritize minority owned business shall be penalized or fined;

Therefore, be it resolved that developers will allocate money to affordable housing efforts and make a priority to engage minority businesses.

## **RESOLUTION 10**

### **Medical Marijuana**

Whereas, People with Cancer, neurological disorders, and Physical Disability are often prescribed pain killers that have been linked to long term side effects.

Therefore, That the SCDP support any efforts that move medical marijuana legal in South Carolina so that patients can get relief.