

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SECURING STATEHOOD FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Sponsors: Katie Breslin (DC); Kevin B. Chavous (DC); Jatarious Frazier (DC); Timothy White (DC)

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has always believed that Americans' right to vote is sacred and fundamental to all who seek to participate in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party seeks to stop all efforts by Republicans to disenfranchise people of color, citizens with low incomes, young people, and to prevent these voters from exercising their right to vote with burdensome restrictions; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party was founded on the promise of an expanded democracy and the right to equitable voting representation is at the heart of our national vision and core principles; and

WHEREAS, the voting residents of the District of Columbia supported a constitutional amendment at 79 percent in the last election to establish the city as the 51st State; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the District of Columbia have spent two hundred years fighting for a fair and equal opportunity at American democracy; and

WHEREAS, the belief of the Young Democrats of America has always been that we must make it easier to vote, not harder, and that every vote is equal.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America believes that restoring our democracy also means finally passing statehood for the District of Columbia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America supports full and equal congressional voting rights for the District of Columbia, as well as the right to have the laws and budget of their local government respected without Congressional interference; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America will seek to educate and engage all State Chapters to lobby and support state legislation to advance the Constitutional Amendment to make the District of Columbia the 51st State of the United States of America.

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC FACTIONS
AND OFFICIAL DEMOCRATIC CAUCUSES IN ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT**

Sponsor: Justin A. Westbrook-Lowery (NY), Sarah Kohout (WA)

A Resolution to encourage the reunification of Democratic caucuses and factions within state legislatures and localities in the United States. These rogue factions deny Democrats the majority in these legislative bodies and prevent progressive legislation from being passed by these bodies.

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has suffered losses in recent years regarding the number of Democratic-controlled state legislatures, governorships, both houses of the United States Congress, and the Presidency; and

WHEREAS, the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States has forced Democrats to look to other levels of government to protect them from potentially harsh federal policies and austere cuts in federal funding; and

WHEREAS, certain states have elected Democratic numerical majorities to state legislatures and localities, which are denied their right to be in the majority because small groups of elected Democrats have either formed a separate caucus from the main Democratic caucus that forms a “majority coalition” with the Republican Party or a Democrat chooses to caucus directly with the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS, examples of these arrangements are, but are not limited to, the eight-member Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) in the New York State Senate, another Democrat who caucuses with the GOP in the New York State Senate, the Majority Coalition Caucus which currently includes one self-identified Independent Democrat in the Washington State Senate, and other local agreements that resemble these associations; and

WHEREAS, these agreements between a small number of elected Democrats, who have been elected to be a part of a Democratic caucus that should hold the rightful majority in the chamber to which they were elected, and Republicans, who should rightfully be in the minority; and

WHEREAS, these arrangements have prevented proposed pieces of progressive legislation from coming to the floor, like potential New York State legislation, including, but not limited to, promoting women’s reproductive health, comprehensive protections for transgender individuals, the state-version of the DREAM Act, sanctuary state legislation, and single-payer health care, and Washington State legislation including, but not limited to, expanding reproductive health services, and expansion of gun safety legislation; and

WHEREAS, these bills have been blocked in exchange for powerful positions in the legislative body, powerful committee assignments, and stipends which only serve to improve the lives and opportunities of those who agree to leave the caucus that they were elected to serve in and not the people who elected them.

WHEREAS, this does not preclude or discourage Democrats from collaboration, co-sponsorship, or co-authorship of legislative priorities in effort to find bipartisan solutions;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Democrats who form “independent” Democratic caucuses, which are separate from the main Democratic caucus in legislatures and form power sharing agreements with

Republicans, and Democrats who choose to directly caucus with the Republican caucus, are injurious to Democratic caucus in legislatures, the Young Democrats of America, the people that elected them, the young people who support them and elect them, and the enactment of progressive legislation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Young Democrats of America calls on individual members of "independent" Democratic caucuses, the caucus as a whole, and any other individual Democrats in states and localities where they together with the primary Democratic caucus would constitute a majority of the chamber who then choose to caucus with any other caucus than that of the main Democratic caucus are called to withdraw from their coalitions with Republicans and rejoin the Democratic caucus to which they rightfully belong, and resolve differences that they have with the leaders of the Democratic caucus to which they were rightfully elected.

TO RECOGNIZE THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO AS EXPRESSED DURING THE PLEBISCITE HELD ON THE ISLAND ON JUNE 11TH, 2017 AND THEIR OVERWHELMING SUPPORT FOR STATEHOOD.

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico was colonized by Spain in 1493 and became a United States territory in 1898 by the Treaty of Paris that ended the Spanish-American War making Puerto Rico the oldest colony of the world and the longest held territory in the history of the United States.

WHEREAS, the longstanding policy of the United States has been that the American citizens of the territory have a right to self-determination to decide their future political status.

WHEREAS, the 2016 Democratic Party Platform declares that “Democrats believe that the people of Puerto Rico should determine their ultimate political status from permanent options that do not conflict with the Constitution, laws and policies of the United States.”

WHEREAS, in 2016 the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Powers, recognized statehood as a valid and legally recognized permanent status option, as well as independence and nationhood in free association with another country.

WHEREAS, on June 11, 2017, Puerto Rico held a status plebiscite on the issue of statehood, and the results of said plebiscite reflect 97.18% support for statehood, 1.50% support for independence and free association; and 1.32% for the current territorial status.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Young Democrats of America recognize the results of the June 11th, 2017 plebiscite through which the people of Puerto Rico voted overwhelmingly to be admitted as a state of the United States of America.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS TO THE HOSTS OF THE 2017 NATIONAL CONVENTION

WHEREAS, The Young Democrats of America wish to show their appreciation to the City of Dallas and the State of Texas for hosting the 2017 Young Democrats of America Convention;

WHEREAS, the 2017 YDA convention brought together 48 chartered units from around the United States, including both States and Territories;

WHEREAS, this is the third time in ten years Texas has welcomed us to their fair state and we are grateful for the continued Lone Star hospitality;

WHEREAS, hundreds of Young Democrats under the age of 36 including students, professionals, candidates and elected officials came together to attend educational and empowering trainings, panel discussions, and events;

WHEREAS, these young Democrats of diverse backgrounds came to learn and teach one another by sharing perspectives, personal stories, and expertise with the hope of strengthening the Democratic Party;

WHEREAS, members were given opportunities to explore the great City of Dallas, discovering the food, culture, music, museums, and public open spaces available to all visitors;

BE IT RESOLVED, that YDA is offering their fullest thanks to the City of Dallas and the State of Texas for their generosity in hosting of the 2017 Young Democrats of America National Convention.

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR DIVERSITY AND EQUAL REPRESENTATION THROUGHOUT
YOUNG DEMOCRATS OF AMERICA**

Sponsors: Tristan Breaux (DC), Jugba Santi (NY), JB Smiley Jr. (TN), Derrick Quarles (SC), David Ducre (OK), Jamal Bates (LA), Ralph Johnson (LA), Ra Shád Frazier-Gaines (SC), Danielle Inez (TN), Timothy White (DC), Lacreteria Carroll (TN), Christen Hebrard (CA), James Primm (AK), Erin Carter (VA), Marcus Williams (MS), Isaac Wilson, (SC)

WHEREAS, the Black Caucus of the Young Democrats of America has numerous state chapters and thousands of members across the country; and

WHEREAS, the Black Caucus of the Young Democrats of America has executed outstanding, well-attended, self-funded, impactful, relevant trainings and programs in all eight YDA regions; and

WHEREAS, black members of the Young Democrats of America have made exceptional and vital contributions to the YDA by offering time, talents, and treasure for the benefit of all members of YDA; and

WHEREAS, Young Democrats of America must recognize that these contributions are significant and have sustained the organization through its 80+ year history; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that we recognize the significance of the contributions of black people in Young Democrats of America.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the Young Democrats of America National Convention call for the establishment of a Diversity & Inclusion Task Force that includes the chairs (or appointed designees) of the following caucuses: Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, Native American Caucus, Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Caucus, Women's Caucus, Disabilities Caucus, LGBTQA Caucus; three at-large appointments from the National President (one who shall be the YDA Diversity & Inclusion Director); and at least one regional director of minority descent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the Young Democrats of America National Convention call for the newly created Diversity & Inclusion Task Force to complete a study that identifies gender, disability status, sexual orientation, and ethnic makeup of the Young Democrats of America for the purposes of further identifying the needs of our members, developing relevant messaging, and expanding our organizational support to underserved communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the Young Democrats of America National Convention call for the initial Diversity & Inclusion Report to be made available at the YDA Spring 2018 meeting and that the final report be delivered 30 days prior to the YDA Winter Meeting in 2018; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the delegates of the Young Democrats of America National Convention call upon the President to ensure that at least 50% of all Presidential appointments are racially and/or ethnically diverse.

**A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE RACISM AND BIGOTRY STEMMING FROM THE 2016
ELECTION**

Sponsor: Ralph Johnson (TN)

WHEREAS, YDA believes that all are created equal and equally valued,

WHEREAS, we condemn the bigoted rally in Charlottesville and other rallies around the nation,

WHEREAS, YDA supports free speech and different points of view but never racism or lying,

WHEREAS, racism is un-American and a betrayal of our ideals written in the Constitution and Declaration of Independence,

THEREFORE,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, YDA calls on all leaders, regardless of political affiliation, to condemn the hatred seen since the 2016 election;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, YDA condemns bigotry in all its forms and the organizers of this event;
and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, YDA renews its commitment, now and forever, to fight for the ideals and policies of freedom and inclusion.