

Resolution Honoring the Life of Former Indiana U.S. Senator Birch Bayh

Sponsors: Matthew Kochevar (IN), Arielle Brandy (IN), Derek Camp (IN), Daqavise Winston (IN)

WHEREAS, at the age of twenty-six (26) Birch Bayh took up the call of public service and was elected to serve in the Indiana General Assembly representing Vigo County in the Indiana House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, following the 1958 general election, Birch Bayh became the youngest person ever elected to serve as Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS, at the age of thirty-four (34) Birch Bayh was elected to his first term in the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS, Birch Bayh authored the 25th Amendment to the United States Constitution, creating the means for an orderly succession of a sitting president and filling the office of the Vice President when vacant; and

WHEREAS, Birch Bayh authored the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution, extending the right to vote to millions of young Americans by lowering the voting age to eighteen (18); and

WHEREAS, Birch Bayh was the primary sponsor in the United States Senate of the joint resolution that successfully proposed the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification; and

WHEREAS, Birch Bayh remains the only person since James Madison to successfully author multiple amendments to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, in 1972 Birch Bayh authored Title IX of the Higher Education Act, prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex at universities, colleges, and other higher education institutions creating equal opportunity for woman in admission, access to scholarships and financial aid, and participation in organized athletics; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Young Democrats of America commemorates the life and work of Birch Bayh and recognize the benefits of his accomplishments to young Americans everywhere; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Young Democrats of America proclaims Birch Bayh as an example of what young Democrats can accomplish when given the opportunity to lead; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Young Democrats of America mourn the passing of Birch Bayh at the age of ninety-one (91) and extend its deepest condolences to his family.

Resolution Condemning Hate Groups and Depriving Them of Democratic Platform

Sponsors: Capri Holden (WA) and Spencer Dayton

WHEREAS a hate group is defined by the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) as “an organization that – based on its official statements or principles, the statements of its leaders, or its activities – has beliefs or practices that attack or malign an entire class of people, typically for their immutable characteristics;”¹

WHEREAS The New York Times cited Eric Kaufmann, a professor at Birkbeck University of London on the intersection of ethnicity and politics, giving this definition of white nationalism: “the belief that national identity should be built around white ethnicity, and [...] maintain both a demographic majority and dominance of the nation’s culture and public life;”²

WHEREAS the Inland Northwest has historically been a hotbed of systemic racism and anti-indigenous colonialism, which has fueled white-identity extremism, separatism, and terroristic activity, requiring sustained community resistance³ as well as combat and dispersal by federal law enforcement;⁴

WHEREAS groups such as Identity Evropa,⁵ Patriot Prayer,⁶ the Proud Boys,⁷ and others engage in campaigns of propaganda and harassment in support of white supremacy, white nationalism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, ableism, and ethnic and religious exclusion, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia;

¹ Southern Poverty Law Center, “Frequently asked questions about hate groups”
<https://www.splcenter.org/20171004/frequently-asked-questions-about-hate-groups#hate%20group>
(accessed: 24 February 2019)

² Amanda Taub, “‘White Nationalism,’ Explained,” *The New York Times*, 21 November 2016.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/11/22/world/americas/white-nationalism-explained.html> (accessed: 24 February 2019)

³ Mike Carter, “Resurgent hate groups have long history in Washington, Northwest,” *Seattle Times*, 24 August 2017 Revision.
<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crime/resurgent-hate-groups-have-long-history-in-washington-state-northwest/?fbclid=IwAR3xglgEuKkuZodY7ZmUcah70LiFXxk7JuxhWGVdKkL4xWncnX63AHOdxYO>
(accessed: 24 February 2019)

⁴ Bill Morlin, “Scourge of Hatred,” *The Spokesman-Review*, 7 February 2010.
<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2010/feb/07/scourge-of-hatred/> (accessed: 24 February 2019)

⁵ Jonathan Glover, “Racist flyers posted in downtown Spokane,” *The Spokesman Review*, 19 March 2018
<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/mar/19/racist-flyers-posted-in-downtown-spokane/>
(accessed: 24 February 2019)

⁶ Christopher Mathias, “Portland’s Patriot Prayer Rally Could Be Most Violent Since Charlottesville, Activists Say,” *Huffpost*, 03 August 2018
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/portland-patriot-prayer-proud-boys-rally_us_5b646217e4b0de86f4a0ba04 (accessed: 24 February 2019)

⁷ Rosanna Cooney, “Two ‘fraternities’ like no others,” *The Inquirer*, 24 August 2018.
<https://www.philly.com/philly/news/two-fraternities-like-no-others-20180824.html> (accessed: 24 February 2019)

WHEREAS other groups, such as Northwest Grassroots⁸ and Respect Washington,⁹ offer normalizing platforms for these harmful movements and their attempts to undermine American values by directing US and Washington State policy toward oppression through force of law;

WHEREAS hate groups, and those that seek to normalize them, often use the presence of elected officials to legitimize their gatherings and by extension their propaganda;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS the propaganda espoused by hate groups is antithetical to the Democratic values of diversity, inclusion, and a safe society for all;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Young Democrats of America will honor local history of popular and political resistance to systemic oppression, xenophobia, and racism, and condemn white supremacy, white nationalism, and fascist speech and violence in all its forms.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Young Democrats of America will not offer a platform to any organization that espouses white nationalism, white supremacy, or other exclusionary philosophies that are counter to the American value that we are “e pluribus unum,” one people out of many places and cultures.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Young Democrats of America ask our elected officials and community leaders to shun involvement with hate groups or organizations that offer platforms to white nationalists: to not join, support, or promote said organizations.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America will share this resolution on the Young Democrats of America’ website and social media accounts, send a copy to all our Democratic or non-partisan endorsed elected officials, and share it with every candidate seeking endorsement from the Young Democrats of America.

⁸ Chad Sokol, “Spokane GOP chairwoman defends alt-right provocateur James Allsup at tea party meeting,” *The Spokesman-Review*, 31 July 20 18.
<http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2018/jul/31/spokane-county-gop-chairwoman-defends-james-allsup/>
(accessed: 24 February 2019)

⁹ Kip Hill, “Ballot initiative on immigration policing in Spokane again shot down by appellate judges,” *The Spokesman-Review*, 29 January 2019
<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2019/jan/29/ballot-initiative-on-immigration-policing-in-spoka/>
(accessed: 24 February 2019)

¹⁰ Claire Provost, “Why is the US government meeting LGBTQ ‘hate groups’ and dangle money in front of them?,” *opendemocracy.net*, 26 July 2016
https://www.opendemocracy.net/5050/claire-provost/us-government-anti-lgbt-hate-groups-money?fbclid=IwAR2j1bVdi4IICSqTh5_eeT95FkCLVKM9_K8NgmRqM-UzOQb47HHaVnSQL3Q (accessed: 24 February 2019)

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND AN IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION AND GREEN NEW DEAL TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2016, world leaders from 175 countries recognized the threat of climate change and the urgent need to combat it by signing the Paris Agreement, agreeing to keep warming “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to “pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C,” which is in itself not safe for humanity; but on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report, criticized by many leading climate scientists as overly conservative, which projected that limiting warming to the unsafe 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a whole-of-society “Climate Mobilization” at all levels of government on a scale not seen since World War II to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors at emergency speed, to rapidly and safely drawdown or remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere, to end the 6th mass extinction of species, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the increasingly severe consequences of climate change; 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:

1. Dramatically expand existing renewable power sources and deploy new production capacity with the goal of meeting 100% of national power demand through renewable sources;
2. building a national, energy-efficient, “smart” grid;
3. upgrading every residential and industrial building for state-of-the-art energy efficiency, comfort and safety;
4. eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the manufacturing, agricultural and other industries, including by investing in local-scale agriculture in communities across the country;
5. eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from, repairing and improving transportation and other infrastructure, and upgrading water infrastructure to ensure universal access to clean water;
6. funding massive investment in the drawdown of greenhouse gases;
7. 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;
8. Just Transition initiatives forged by a “blue-green” alliance of labor unions and environmental justice groups who saw the need to phase out the industries that were harming workers, community health, and the planet, while also providing the means and associated training to enable just pathways for workers to transition into new, sustainable livelihoods.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America endorse a just transition and climate emergency mobilization effort to reverse global warming, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from Federal, State, and Municipal authorities, ends citywide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible and no later than 2030, immediately initiates an effort to safely draw down carbon from the atmosphere, and accelerates adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Young Democrats of America express support for a comprehensive Green New Deal and related legislation to respond to the climate emergency provide a just transition to green jobs as soon as possible.

Author: Igor Tregub, CA National Committeeperson and YDA Environmental Provisional Caucus Chair

Signatures

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