

**Resolution Affirming YDA's Commitment to Support the DNC Climate Crisis Task Force Platform**

*Sponsored by:*

*Igor Tregub, CA Environmental Caucus Chair*

*Edgar Ortiz, CA, YDAHC Chair*

*Christen Hebrard, CA National Committee Person*

*Dustin Burley, KY, VP of Programming*

*Carrie McFadden, YDA Executive Vice President*

*Dunixi Guereca, YDA Treasurer*

*Will Rodriguez-Kennedy, CA President*

*James L. Wells, YDA LGBTQ+ Caucus Chair*

*Arielle Brandy, Indiana President*

*Dyna Kristine Martinez, IN National Committee Person*

*Matthew Kochevar, Indiana National Committee Representative*

*Patrick Jordan, New York, President*

*Seamus Campbell, NY, YDA Disability Issues Caucus Chair*

*Andrew Price, Ohio, YDA Veterans Caucus Chair*

*Capri Holden, YDA Pacific Region Chair*

*Arne Nelson, WA National Committee Person*

*Erik Gunderson, AK National Committee Person*

WHEREAS, The Democratic National Committee (DNC) Environment and Climate Crisis Council, a permanent entity of the DNC, was established to push the Democratic Party to take bold and urgent action addressing the climate crisis and other environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, The Council is recommending a sweeping set of policies for inclusion in the new four-year 2020 Democratic Party platform, which will be approved at the August convention. These recommendations result from a three-month process that included a listening tour and meetings with environmental justice advocates, scientists, public health experts, members of frontline and vulnerable communities, engineers, educators, union members, artists, faith leaders, policy analysts, environmental architects, elected leaders, activists, and environmental lawyers from across America; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations call on our Democratic Party to commit to the most comprehensive and bold climate solutions ever adopted, including:

- Transition to 100% clean, renewable energy with zero emissions, and end the fossil fuel era.
- Invest massively in wind, solar, geothermal, and green infrastructure with a just transition, creating millions of family-sustaining union jobs.
- Guarantee the right to clean air, water, and drinking water as fundamental human rights.
- Fight environmental injustice and racism, directing at least 40% of climate and environmental investments to frontline and vulnerable communities.<sup>[1]</sup>

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Young Democrats of America endorses and supports the DNC Council on the Environment and Climate Crisis Recommendations to the DNC Platform and affirms its commitment to advocating for them in November 2020 and beyond as a complement to the electoral and policy goals of the DNC and the future Biden Administration.

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[1] <https://www.dncclimate.org/the-platform>

**Resolution condemning Chris Janicek's atrocious behavior and demanding an immediate end to his candidacy for United States Senate**

**Primary Sponsors:** Hannah Wroblewski (NE), Caleb Rohrer (NE), Emma Craig (NE), Sarah Cohen (NE), Dane Schmitt (NE)

**Cosponsor:** Quentin Wathum-Ocama (MN)

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Democratic Party withdrew its support for United States Senate candidate Chris Janicek and called for his withdrawal after text messages emerged in which he made sexually violent remarks about a female staffer, and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Young Democrats have also demanded Mr. Janicek's immediate withdrawal from the race, and

WHEREAS, the remarks were grotesque, offensive, and utterly vile, and

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of America stand with survivors and victims of sexual violence, and

WHEREAS, we are unequivocal in our support of the #MeToo movement, and believe all survivors should be believed, and

WHEREAS, we recognize the profound and lasting trauma that sexual violence has on survivors and advocate for unlimited access to support for all victims.

WHEREAS, we also recognize that power differentials are not to be taken lightly, and those in positions of power and authority must be held accountable for how they treat those who are vulnerable, and

WHEREAS, while this allegation alone is sufficient cause to warrant calls for his resignation, the truth is several Nebraska Young Democrats have experienced firsthand Chris Janicek's lack of boundaries and inappropriate behavior, ranging from rude and demeaning comments to inappropriate physical contact, and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of his actions is that many in the Nebraska Young Democrats do not feel safe in his presence, and

WHEREAS, past stories of Mr. Janicek's impropriety are critical to understanding that his repugnant text message was not an isolated incident and shows a pattern of toxic behavior that demonstrates that he cannot be trusted with power and authority over others, and

WHEREAS, abusive, bullying, violent, or disrespectful behavior by our elected officials or office-seekers cannot be tolerated, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Janicek has in past interactions demonstrated a deep lack of respect for us, our bodies, our voices, and

WHEREAS, people who misuse their power and authority are unworthy of our respect and must be removed from positions with which they can exploit or further harm vulnerable persons, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Janicek has proven himself unworthy of and unfit for the office he seeks, and

WHEREAS, we believe the time has come for Mr. Janicek to face the truth,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Young Democrats of America, join the Nebraska Young Democrats and Nebraska Democratic Party in condemning Chris Janicek's atrocious behavior and demand an immediate end to his candidacy for United States Senate.

# RESOLUTION CONDEMNING THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS TAKING PLACE IN JAMMU & KASHMIR

Whereas the Young Democrats of America seek to promote the human rights of all people, including the freedom to practice, worship, or observe one's own religion;

Whereas the Government of India has unilaterally changed the status of Jammu and Kashmir without a direct consultation or the consent of the Kashmiri people;

Whereas the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has reported gross human rights abuses in Jammu and Kashmir;

Whereas the Government of India has enforced a strict curfew in Jammu and Kashmir that has restricted freedom of expression, assembly, and movement;

Whereas, the Government of India enacted a communications blackout in Jammu and Kashmir that includes the suspension of landlines and shutdown of mobile phone networks and internet access, and internet service has only been provisionally restored as of March 3, 2020;

Whereas international human rights observers have documented the security services of the Government of India's excessive use of force against civilians in Jammu and Kashmir;

Whereas the Government of India has used the arrest and indefinite detention of thousands of people in Jammu and Kashmir to control civilians of all ages;

Whereas the Government of India has detained Kashmiri civil society leaders of all political perspectives without charge or trial;

Whereas detentions and harassment of journalists in Jammu and Kashmir has been reported by independent observers and journalistic organizations;

*Therefore be it Resolved,*

That the Young Democrats of America condemn:

By Eric Marquez (CA) Gabriela Medina (PR)

the changes to the status of Jammu and Kashmir that were made without the direct consultation of the Kashmiri people,

the communications blackout imposed in Jammu and Kashmir,

the widespread use of excessive force against civilians, protestors, and detainees; and

the unjust, arbitrary and politically motivated indefinite detentions of people in Jammu and Kashmir.

July 28, 2020

**A Resolution to Commemorate Isaac Robinson**

1. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson passed away March 29th, 2020 due to complications from COVID-19; and
2. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson served as second (2nd) Vice President of the Young Democrats of America during the 2009-2011 biennium; and
3. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson was a long time President of the Young Democrats of Michigan; and
4. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson was a State Representative in the Michigan House of Representatives; and
5. **Whereas;** Isaac Robinson lived his Democratic values
6. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson was a fierce advocate for youth involvement in politics; and
7. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson exemplified the mantra “Young Gets It Done”; and
8. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson dedicated his life to pursuing justice for the marginalized and fighting for equality for everyone; and
9. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson dedicated his career fighting for criminal justice reform; and
10. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson dedicated his political career fighting for restorative justice; and
11. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson was a fierce advocate for his community; and
12. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson was a true native son of Detroit
13. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson was a mentor to many Young Democrats; and
14. **Whereas:** Isaac Robinson was a good friend and colleague to many;

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:* That the Young Democrats of America commemorate the life of Isaac Robinson at the summer meeting of the National Committee of the Young Democrats of America.**

**Sponsored by:**

**Robert Sembariski (MI)**

**Regina Weiss (MI)**

**Briana Cartwright (FL)**

# Resolution on the actions of Attorney General William P. Barr

6/4/2020

Coauthors: Director of NE Region Zachery Annis and Director of SE Region Matt Hughes

WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States of America protects the rights of US Citizens to peaceably assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS the protestors in Lafayette Square across from the White House on June 1st were lawfully and peaceably assembled; and

WHEREAS the United States Park Police and other law enforcement agencies used tear gas and other uses of force in an assault against those same protestors; and

WHEREAS Attorney General William Barr swore this oath to “support, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic;” and

WHEREAS it is reported that Attorney General William Barr personally ordered the assault on those peaceful protestors; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America denounce the actions of Attorney General William Barr; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America fully support the House of Representatives in their call for a special prosecutor to investigate these actions against peaceful demonstrators exercising their First Amendment rights to peacefully assemble and petition their government in ensuring all Black Lives Matter.

## **Resolution on the Banning of Dangerous and Harmful Crowd Dispersal Weapons**

**Sponsor:** Quentin Wathum-Ocama (MN), Jason Chavez (MN),  
& Hannah Wroblewski (NE)

WHEREAS, the constitutional rights of Americans to peaceably assemble, exercise freedom of speech, and petition the government for redress of grievances must be respected, and,

WHEREAS, the history of policing in the United State of America America includes suppressing protest with a level of force that can only reasonably be described as excessive and violent, and,

WHEREAS, this level of force routinely involves the use of indiscriminately targeted, area of effect weapons such as tear gas, concussion grenades, flash-bang grenades, stun grenades, and rubber bullets and,

WHEREAS, these weapons are said to be “non-lethal” or “less lethal” by police and their manufacturers even though they can still cause significant harm, and,

WHEREAS, rubber bullets can also cause internal bleeding in the abdominal region, concussions, injuries to the head and neck, and skin and soft-tissue damage, and

WHEREAS, numerous academic studies have proven that the rubber bullets are too dangerous for crowd control with researchers finding that 15 percent of those struck by rubber bullets suffered a permanent disability, usually loss of sight, while 3 percent died, and,

WHEREAS, when long-range acoustic devices can cause loss of equilibrium, migraines, nausea, vomiting, and even vital organ damage<sup>1</sup> when used at high power, and  
WHEREAS, concussion grenades, flash-bang grenades, stun grenades, and long-range acoustic devices can create noise as loud as 160 to 180<sup>2</sup> decibels which are levels not safe for any period of time”<sup>3</sup> according to the American Speech-Language Hearing Association, and

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<sup>1</sup><https://theconversation.com/sonic-attacks-in-china-and-cuba-how-sound-can-be-a-weapon-97380#:~:text=Infrasonic%20weapons%20like%20the%20long,involuntary%20evacuation%20of%20the%20bowels.>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.vox.com/identities/2020/6/3/21279047/rubber-bullets-flash-bang-tear-gas-police-protests>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.asha.org/public/hearing/Loud-Noise-Dangers/>

WHEREAS, concussion grenades, flash-bang grenades, stun grenades, and long-range acoustic devices can damage to the eardrums temporarily and lead to permanent deafness, and

WHEREAS, the light emitted from concussion grenades, flash-bang grenades, and stun grenades cause can temporarily blind a person, and,

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Supreme Court has even declared weapons like concussion grenades, flash-bang grenades, and stun grenades a weapon of “mass death and destruction”<sup>4</sup>, and

WHEREAS, according to a US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, long-lasting exposure to tear gas can cause lethal chemical burns or respiratory failure while for people with certain health conditions, the effects of the gas can be even worse<sup>5</sup>, and

WHEREAS, the use of asphyxiating gas, including tear gas, is prohibited in warfare by the Geneva Protocol of 1925<sup>6</sup>, and

WHEREAS, police departments across the United States of America continue use a wide range of other weaponry on peaceful protesters,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Young Democrats of America calls on municipalities, county equivalent subdivisions, state and territorial legislatures, and the United States congress to pass laws that ban police departments from using kinetic impact projectiles, chemical irritants, acoustic weapons, directed energy weapons, water cannons, disorientation devices, ultrasonic weapons, or any other device to cause pain or discomfort during attempts to disperse crowds.

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<sup>4</sup>[https://www.witn.com/content/news/Court-Flash-bang-grenades-are-weapons-of-mass-destruction-568353471.html#:~:text=RALEIGH%2C%20N.C.%20\(AP\)%20%2D%2D,of%20%22mass%20death%20and%20destruction.](https://www.witn.com/content/news/Court-Flash-bang-grenades-are-weapons-of-mass-destruction-568353471.html#:~:text=RALEIGH%2C%20N.C.%20(AP)%20%2D%2D,of%20%22mass%20death%20and%20destruction.)

<sup>5</sup> <https://thebulletin.org/2020/06/why-is-tear-gas-banned-in-war-but-not-from-peaceful-protests/>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/06/06/fact-check-its-true-tear-gas-chemical-weapon-banned-war/3156448001/>

## **Resolution to Recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Women’s Suffrage Movement**

Proposed by: Ratasha Smith (CT), Becky Beaver (GA), Amber Sherman (TN)

WHEREAS, the year 2020 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, granting women the right to vote on August 18, 1920; and

WHEREAS, on November 2, 1920, over 8 million women in the United States voted in elections for the first time. Previously, some states, specifically in the west, had already extended the vote to women years before the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment enfranchised women nationally; and

WHEREAS, as the Nation recognizes the centennial of the Women’s Suffrage Movement, it should also acknowledge that not all women were granted the right to vote on August 18, 1920. Women of color, specifically African – American women, were still unable to vote until 1965 upon the passing of the Voting Rights Act. Nevertheless, their important contributions to the movement should too be recognized; and

THEREFORE, thanks to the contributions of the activists who fought this decade-long fight, in recent years, women have turned out at record rates according to the Pew Research Center. In comparison to their male counterparts, women continue to vote at a slightly higher rate dating back to 1998. When analyzed by age, the only age group where turnout was higher for men than women was among adults ages 65 and older, specifically in the 2018 midterm election, according to The Center’s research; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America hereby recognize the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women’s Suffrage Movement and expresses their gratitude to the many women and Women’s Suffrage advocates who contributed to granting women their right to vote in the United States.

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“Black Women & The Suffrage Movement: 1848-1923.” Wesleyan University, [www.wesleyan.edu/mlk/posters/suffrage.html#](http://www.wesleyan.edu/mlk/posters/suffrage.html#).

Hartig, Hannah. “In Year of Record Midterm Turnout, Women Continued to Vote at Higher Rates than Men.” Pew Research Center, Pew Research Center, 3 May 2019, [www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/03/in-year-of-record-midterm-turnout-women-continued-to-vote-at-higher-rates-than-men/](http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/05/03/in-year-of-record-midterm-turnout-women-continued-to-vote-at-higher-rates-than-men/)

History.com Editors. “Women's Suffrage.” History.com, A&E Television Networks, 29 Oct. 2009, [www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage](http://www.history.com/topics/womens-history/the-fight-for-womens-suffrage)

## **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A LOWER VOTING AGE**

Young Democrats of America

August \_\_, 2020

### WHEREAS:

1. Youths pay taxes, but have no representation over how that money is spent;
2. Teenagers and children can be tried as adults and sent to adult prisons;
3. Youth are most affected by education policy;
4. Elected Representatives may make decisions that have effects into the far future;
5. The City of Takoma Park, Maryland—upon lowering its voting age to 16—saw a turnout of 44% among 16 and 17 year olds compared to an 11% overall turnout; and an increase to 28% overall turnout in the second year;
6. A 2004 study on mock elections showed that youth voting increased parental turnout; and
7. A majority of Democrats in Congress voted to lower the voting age for federal elections;

### THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Young Democrats of America:

1. Endorses lowering the voting age to 16;
2. Encourages all Senators and Representatives to vote in favor of placing the appropriate legislation, Constitutional Amendment or otherwise, on the ballot; and
3. Encourages all state legislators conventions to vote in favor of the appropriate legislation if proposed as a Constitutional Amendment.

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE MIGRANT JUSTICE PLATFORM (MJP) AND  
URGING THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO ADOPT THE MJP FOR  
ITS 2020 PLATFORM**

*Authored by Rodrigo Pimentel, RI; National Committeeperson,  
Kimberly Agyekum, DC; Issue Advocacy Director, and Edgar Ortiz, CA; Hispanic Caucus Chair*  
**Resolution 20-##**

**Whereas** for decades, policymakers have attempted to fix our broken immigration through an unsuccessful "comprehensive immigration reform" strategy, one that has resulted in ever-increasing funding for the immigrant dragnet<sup>1</sup>, while immigrant communities have seen little relief; and

**Whereas** during the past 20 years, multiple administrations have militarized and expanded immigration enforcement, resulting in a record 5.5 million deportations<sup>2</sup>; and

**Whereas** inaction from policymakers has culminated in a humanitarian crisis, with tens of thousands of immigrants in prisons, children locked in cages, and millions terrorized by a system that destroys families and our communities; and

**Whereas** the Migrant Justice Platform — created by grassroots and directly impacted individuals — provides a forward-thinking vision on migration, recognizing the following truths<sup>3</sup>:

- (1) “We don’t believe some must suffer for others to advance. We are in this together.”
- (2) “White supremacists have implemented their program from the White House. Our agenda must respond accordingly.”
- (3) “Migrant workers subsidize the global economy.”
- (4) “Immigration is not only a domestic policy issue,” and,

**Whereas** the Migrant Justice Platform recommends executive and congressional action that protects all immigrants in the United States (U.S.) and rethinks the role of the U.S. abroad<sup>4</sup>. Specifically:

- (1) The Migrant Justice Platform suggests the following executive actions<sup>5</sup>:

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<sup>1</sup> Kassie, Emily. 2019. “How the US Built the World’s Largest Immigrant Detention System.” *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/sep/24/detained-us-largest-immigrant-detention-trump> (February 25, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> “Deportation Rates in Historical Perspective | Cato @ Liberty.” <https://www.cato.org/blog/deportation-rates-historical-perspective> (February 25, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> “Migrant Justice Platform.” <https://www.migrantjusticeplatform.org/> (February 25, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> “Migrant Justice Platform.” <https://www.migrantjusticeplatform.org/> (February 25, 2020).

- (a) A moratorium on all deportations; and
  - (b) An end to the Muslim ban; and
  - (c) Termination of federal contracts with immigration detention facilities; and
  - (d) An end to immigrant detention, including family detention; and
  - (e) A process to release people held in DHS detention to their families; and
  - (f) Elimination of family separation; and
  - (g) An investigation into the agencies responsible for “white supremacist-related activity”; and
  - (h) Termination of programs that force local jurisdictions to work with federal immigration enforcement such as the 287(g) program; and
  - (i) Legal representation for all immigrants, along with a rescission of decisions by the Board of Immigration Appeals by the Trump administration, and re-affirming due process rights; and
  - (j) A Workplace Relief order that protects workers’ rights by repealing anti-worker executive actions by the NLRB and other agencies, and allowing migrants to obtain temporary status if faced with a labor dispute; and
  - (k) Eliminate obstacles to asylum enacted by the Trump administration; and
  - (l) Use discretion to stop charging unlawful entry/re-entry as a crime; and
  - (m) Commitments to respect foreign sovereignty and help build strong institutions in neighboring countries; and
  - (n) Re-enter the Paris Agreement so people are no longer displaced due to climate change; and
  - (o) Extend Temporary Protected Status and DED; and
- (2) The Migrant Justice Platform suggests the following legislative actions<sup>6</sup>:
- (a) Instead of criminalizing immigrants, refocus on workplace rights, such as preventing wage theft and reinforcing workplace protections for all workers; and
  - (b) Establish pathways to gain U.S. citizenship for the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the nation, including DACA, DPS, and DED holders; and
  - (c) Decriminalization of working without status; and
  - (d) Allow future workers to immigrate to the U.S. with full rights, including the ability to join collective worker organizations both in the U.S. and their home nations; and
  - (e) Remove cooperation requirements from T/U visas for victims of crimes, including those who are victims of crimes committed by DHS and its agencies; and
  - (f) Support the New Way Forward legislation that will rescind the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act; and
  - (g) Restructure Customs and Border Patrol with a humanitarian mission.

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

- (h) Enact legislation that de-militarizes the U.S. border, and apply the 4th and 6th Amendment rights to ports of entry; and
- (i) Decriminalize entry and re-entry to the U.S.; and
- (j) Add gender as a social group under U.S. asylum law; and
- (k) Enact migration pathways between the United States and countries in the region to avoid exploitation of temporary worker programs; and
- (l) Provide a mechanism for temporary work, but guarantee workers full rights, and bans private labor recruiters from this process; and

**Whereas** the Young Democrats of America believes<sup>7</sup> that the “United States must continue to stand as a beacon for hope for those yearning for freedom and opportunity around the world”, and supports<sup>8</sup> “humanizing and dignifying immigration laws so they reunite families and allow immigrants to seek work, a better life for their families, and a commitment to the United States.”

**Be It Resolved**, that the Young Democrats of America (YDA) endorses the Migrant Justice Platform; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the YDA urges the Democratic National Committee (DNC) to adopt the MJP as a part of its 2020 Democratic Party Platform; and

**Be It Further Resolved**, that the YDA communicate to its membership, press, and the DNC its support of the MJP.

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<sup>7</sup> “2019-2021 Platform of the Young Democrats of America.” 2019. *Young Democrats of America*. <https://www.yda.org/platform> (March 5, 2020).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

**Submitted by:**

1. Rodrigo Pimentel, RI; Rhode Island National Committeeperson
2. Edgar Ortiz, CA; Hispanic Caucus Chair
3. Carrie McFadden, CA; Executive Vice President
4. Christen Hebrard, CA; California National Committeewoman
5. Saché Primeaux-Shaw, OK; Oklahoma Young Democrats President, Native American Caucus Chair
6. Reem Subei, OH; Muslim Caucus Chair
7. Seamus Campbell, NY; Disability Issues Caucus Chair
8. Ben Cohen, KS; Jewish Caucus Chair
9. Kolby Duhon, TX; Texas Young Democrats President
10. Wesley Biggs, FL; Florida Young Democrats President
11. Heidi Silverio, RI; Rhode Island Young Democrats President
12. Igor Tregub, CA; California; California National Committeeman, Environmental Caucus Chair
13. Katherine Kerwin, RI; Rhode Island National Committeeperson

## Young Democrats of America Resolution to End Police Violence

*Over 1,000 people are killed by police violence each year in America. As Democrats, we have a responsibility to combat this violence by advocating for research-based policy solutions at every level of government. By implementing effective research-based policies and practices that promote fair policing and non-violent outcomes to interactions with law enforcement, we can ensure all Americans safe communities.*

**WHEREAS**, the Young Democrats of America (YDA) acknowledges the systemic and institutional racism inherent since the founding of the United States of America and seeks to eliminate such explicit and implicit racism; and

**WHEREAS**, the actions of police brutality disproportionately impact Black, Hispanic, Indigenous, LGBT2QIA+, as well as other marginalized and underrepresented communities; and

**WHEREAS**, America accounts for hundreds of years of institutional racism, racialized profiling and policing, and police violence and brutality; and

**WHEREAS**, the American justice system has consistently failed to protect marginalized communities in that individuals from those communities are often not only subjected to brutality by police but are also exposed to continued trauma and deprived of basic needs while in the criminal justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, while only 5% of arrests in America are for violent crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous people are more likely to be stopped and/or searched by police without probable cause; and

**WHEREAS**, aggressive ticketing, fines, and civil asset forfeiture disproportionately impact low-income communities and do not enhance public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, use of force increases the likelihood of serious injury or death and results in physical, psychological, and emotional trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, the Defense Logistics Agency's 1033 Program transferred military-grade weapons including grenade launchers and armored vehicles to law enforcement agencies; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of on-duty body cameras by law enforcement, whose footage is publicly accessible, has been shown to increase transparency in incidents where force was used, alongside accountability when discipline is warranted; and

**WHEREAS**, there is currently no Federal requirement for independent investigations of law enforcement involved deaths; only 1% of all killings by police lead to an officer being charged with a crime; and

**WHEREAS**, the average police recruit spends 58 hours learning how to shoot but only 8 hours learning how to de-escalate interaction with citizens in an effort to resolve conflict using non-violence; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no federal standard of law enforcement training that includes anti-bias nor trauma-informed training; and

**WHEREAS**, community oversight entities are crucial to creating trust with communities, creating meaningful reforms to address systemic issues and seeking discipline where necessary for problematic law enforcement agencies or officers, few law enforcement agencies have them or grant them disciplinary or subpoena power to enact accountability for law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, police unions have benefited from contracts that exploit labor negotiations and as a standard, contain clauses that hinder investigations into misconduct preventing accountability for misuse of power; often in conjunction with law enforcement bills of rights that impose barriers to accountability for misconduct; and

**WHEREAS**, YDA recognizes that there are currently more people incarcerated in the United States than in any other nation in the world and YDA strives to create a society where laws are applied with consistency and equity, and with rehabilitation, not incarceration, as the primary focus.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** YDA denounces state sanctioned violence against Black people and acknowledges that structural racism and racial violence permeate all systems within our country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA encourages jurisdictions across the country to adopt comprehensive policies to eliminate police violence and establish protocols of transparency with both criminal and civil accountability for law enforcement across the nation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports direct democratic community control of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, ensuring that communities most harmed by destructive policing have the power to hire and fire law enforcement personnel, determine disciplinary action, control budgets and policies, and subpoena relevant agency information, as adapted from the [Movement for Black Lives Policy Platform](#); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports the #DefundThePolice movement which calls on local, state, and federal government entities to actively divest funds from policing budgets

and reinvest those funds directly into programs to aid communities most harmed by systemic racism, over-policing, and disproportionate arrests and conviction statistics; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports the expansion of alternative sentencing programs, restorative justice initiatives at the local, state, and federal level in the spirit of rehabilitation over incarceration; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports an end to for-profit policing and imprisonment, which perpetuates mass incarceration, in turn disproportionately impacting communities of color; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports a limit to the use of force by law enforcement personnel and clear protocols to establish when such action is justified and necessary, and demands the development of independent response entities to address mental health crises and other non-violent community disturbances; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA demands law enforcement agencies be demilitarized by ending the use of military-grade weapons including, but not limited to, armoured vehicles, grenade launchers, tear gas, and pepper spray while also being held accountable to de-escalation practices for peaceful protest; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports the use of body cameras for law enforcement as a means to document law enforcement encounters with civilians, with punishments for any officer who deactivates or disables their body camera; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports independent investigations for all officer-involved deaths and allegations of abuse or misconduct; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports the legal presumption of non-consent to sexual encounters between law enforcement personnel and persons in law enforcement custody; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that YDA supports fair police contracts and the removal of provisions that limit accountability from law enforcement bills of rights; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** YDA shall transmit a copy of this resolution to each chartered unit and encourage the chartered unit to take action to address these issues, policies, and goals in their respective communities. YDA shall address these goals by identifying legislation for young Democrats to push the passage of and developing training with resources for how young Democrats can achieve these policy goals in their respective communities.

**Co-Sponsors:**

Christen Hebrard - National Committee Representative (CA)

Devonte Wilson - President (NC)

Seamus Campbell - Disability Issues Caucus Chair (NY)

Kandice Harris - National Committee Representative (Ill.)

Matthew Kochevar - National Committee Representative (Ind.)

Lora Walker - President (WV)

Alisa Clements - National Committee Representative (WV)

Tiffany Pryce - National Committee Representative (VA)

Michael Hemminger - National Committee Representative (VA)

Jamarr Brown - National Committee Representative (TX)