

Resolution in support of Justin Jones and Justin Pearson

Whereas, Representatives Justin Jones of Nashville and Justin Pearson of Memphis were expelled from the Tennessee General Assembly.

Whereas, both are considered Young Democrats.

Whereas, the group known as “The Tennessee Three” were put up for expulsion due to the protest of gun violence.

Whereas, The Tennessee Three were unjustly silenced as they looked to propose legislation in the aftermath of the Covenant School shooting in Nashville, Tennessee.

Whereas, Representatives Jones and Pearson were both reinstated to their offices by their respective cities.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Young Democrats of America support Representative Justin Jones and Justin Pearson.

Resolution in Support of Defunding the Police
Submitted by Tennessee Young Democrats

Whereas, since YDA's last convention in 2021 281 Black people have been unjustly murdered by police including Tyre Nichols who was beaten to death by Memphis Police on January 7th,2023.

Whereas, Black people account for less than 13 percent of the U.S. population, but are murdered by police at three times the rate of white people and police have murdered 56 Black People within the year 2023.

Whereas, For much of U.S. history, law enforcement meant implementing laws that were explicitly designed to subjugate Black people and enforce white supremacy. We must divest from excessive, brutal, discriminatory policing and invest in a vision of community safety that works for everyone, not just an elite few.

Whereas, We know the safest communities in America are places that don't center the police. What we're looking for already exists, and we already know it works. We need look no further than neighborhoods where the wealthy, well-connected, and well-off live, or anywhere where there is easy access to living wages, health care, quality public education, and freedom from police terror.

Whereas, Black Lives Matter. That includes poor Black lives, Disabled Black lives, Incarcerated Black lives, Uneducated Black lives, Trans Black Lives, and young Black lives. All of which deserve to have their communities funded instead of being over policed and criminalized because we keep us safe.

Whereas, We can't stand by while our city, state, and federal governments continue to fund an excessive, brutal, and discriminatory system of policing. We will no longer be told that what we deserve is not politically viable or logistically possible.

Whereas, Breonna Taylor should still be here.

Therefore Be It Resolved, The Young Democrats of America stand in solidarity with Black people and their clear demands to divest from excessive, brutal, discriminatory policing and reaffirm the need to give communities resources and support to thrive. We believe in defunding the police and investing in a vision of community safety that works for everyone.

Resolution in Support of the Stop Cop City Movement
Submitted by Tennessee Young Democrats

Whereas, the Democratic Party calls itself the party of the working class families and poor folks, and right now those communities are dealing with an inflation crisis, a housing crisis, a hunger crisis, a climate crisis, and a lingering public health crisis exacerbated by the closure of local Hospitals. and

Whereas, the Atlanta Police Training center widely known as “Cop City” is a \$96 million militarized police training compound project that borders a southeast Atlanta Black working-class neighborhood who overwhelmingly oppose its construction. The project would be largest police training facility in the United States and is led by the Atlanta Police Foundation, corporations, and state and local government officials in Georgia.

Whereas, it is proposed to be built in the Weelaunee forest, one of the “Four lungs” of Atlanta, that protects the city from the dangerous effects of climate change and is one of the largest urban forests in the U.S. The Weelaunee forest was formerly the home of the Muscogee Creek people before they were violently displaced and has a racist history as the site of a former plantation and prison farm.

Whereas, Atlantans have resisted Cop City since early 2021 when the plan was proposed by Atlanta City Council with 17 hours of public comment revealing that about 70 percent of Atlantans were opposed to the project. In May of 2023 over 388 Atlantans filled the Atlanta City Hall building asking the City Council to not fund this project, of that number over 200 were allowed to make public comment and every comment was in opposition to the Atlanta Training Center.

Whereas, Within the plans of use for Cop City, the Police Foundation has stated that 43% of the folks being trained at cop city will be coming from other police forces all across the country. This massive investment in police militarization, with a compound featuring a mock city, shooting ranges, and VR simulation infrastructure will undoubtedly reinforce the discriminatory police practices that disproportionately affect Black and Brown people all across the United States.

Whereas, throughout this year alone we have seen Black and Brown folks still being murdered viciously by police from police departments like Memphis Police and Atlanta Police both of which have over 2000 hours of training, way more than the legal requirement.

Whereas, the Mayor Andre Dickens and Atlanta City Administration have lied to citizens about the cost of the project as it was just revealed in the media that the projected total cost will be \$67 million, not the original \$30 million that has been advertised for two years.

Whereas, as an organization we adopted a resolution in support of defunding police in 2021 where we affirmed that the safest communities are those that include easy access to living wages, health care, quality public education, and freedom from police terror. We can not in good conscience ignore what's happening in Atlanta as the will of the people is ignored and Mayor Andre Dickens ignores the communities demands to stop Cop City and give their communities resources. As Democrats, our values of the Democratic Party such as protecting the environment and principled leadership wont allow us to turn a blind eye to this issue.

Whereas, we demand Mayor Dickens cancel the Cop City lease with Atlanta Police Foundation, immediately drop the domestic terrorism charges for Cop City protestors, open an independent investigation in the death forest defender Tortiguita whose death was just ruled a homicide after it was revealed they were shot 57 times sitting with their hands up in the air, and invest in the real materials needs of poor, working class Atlantans.

Therefore be it resolved, as Young Democrats of America, the largest youth led organization of the Democratic party we stand in solidarity with the people of Atlanta and their demands to not destroy the Weelaunee forest and to not build Cop City.

Resolution on continued support for Ukraine

WHEREAS, the bravery and resilience demonstrated by the Ukrainian armed forces and its citizens have been instrumental in defending their homeland against continued aggression by the Russian Federation; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine's defense has not only proven pivotal in preserving its own sovereignty but also in curbing wider geopolitical risks, thus strengthening the stability of the NATO alliance and reducing the potential for extensive conflicts involving Russia and other countries; and

WHEREAS, the violation of Ukrainian sovereignty has sparked unprecedented global unity in denouncing such actions, reinforcing the importance of international law and respect for national boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Ukraine's determined resistance provides a powerful deterrent to global powers harboring expansionist ambitions, including China, thereby decreasing the chances of such powers viewing military confrontation as a favorable course of action; and

WHEREAS, the Ukrainian struggle has catalyzed the recognition of the strategic risk of energy dependence on Russia, leading nations to earnestly seek alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the imperative to assist Ukraine extends beyond the cessation of conflict, including support in rebuilding efforts and helping those displaced reintegrate into society; and

WHEREAS, the necessity of imposing more severe sanctions against the Russian Federation has been accentuated, further illustrating the power of economic and diplomatic strategies in deterring aggression; and

WHEREAS, the affirmation of support for NATO and its allies underscores the significance of collective security arrangements in maintaining European stability;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America extend their profound respect and admiration for the Ukrainian resolve and victory, acknowledging their struggle as a beacon of national determination and sovereignty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America urges continued international collaboration and solidarity with Ukraine, including sustained diplomatic, economic, military, and humanitarian support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America applauds the steps taken by nations to divest from energy reliance on Russia, advocating for further investment in sustainable and independent energy sources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America advocates for a comprehensive post-conflict support plan for Ukraine, involving both material and humanitarian aid to ensure the country's successful recovery and reconstruction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America underscores the urgency of keeping the ongoing conflict in the forefront of international consciousness, urging continuous attention and engagement from global citizens and leaders to prevent the normalization of such aggression and to support the ongoing struggle for peace and sovereignty; and

FINALLY RESOLVED, Слава Україні! Glory to Ukraine!

Resolution on opposition to Ugandan anti-LGBT+ bill

WHEREAS, we affirm the principle that all individuals should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, we stand in solidarity with LGBTQ+ individuals globally who face persecution, discrimination, and violence; and

WHEREAS, a new law signed on May 26th, 2023, by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni further criminalizes homosexuality, even providing for the death penalty for some same-sex acts and long prison sentences for "promoting" homosexuality or renting a room to a gay couple; and

WHEREAS, this law reflects the culmination of a campaign that has weaponized the politics of the family and moral panic about "the infiltration of foreign cultures" and the sexualization of children; and

WHEREAS, the law has been influenced and supported by global anti-LGBTQ+ movements and potentially foreign financial support, thereby undermining Uganda's sovereignty; and

WHEREAS, this law has resulted in the persecution of LGBTQ+ individuals in Uganda, causing them to live in fear and uncertainty, and often be denied basic rights and services; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America condemns the Uganda Anti-LGBT Bill and calls upon the Ugandan government to repeal it immediately; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon the U.S. government to use its diplomatic and economic leverage to urge the Ugandan government and other countries with similar laws to respect the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we stand in solidarity with LGBTQ+ activists in Uganda and globally who are fighting for their rights, and commit to supporting their efforts through awareness raising and advocacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, we call upon international organizations and human rights groups to increase scrutiny and pressure on countries that violate LGBTQ+ rights; and

FINALLY RESOLVED, we commit to educating our members and our community about the situation in Uganda and similar situations globally, and to mobilizing our network in support of global LGBTQ+ rights.

Resolution: A Resolution to Establish a Student Bill of Rights

Subject: Education

WHEREAS, the right to quality, accessible education across all levels and in all forms is a fundamental principle to any democratic society that desires to be equitable, free, and just, and denial of that right, whether by circumstance or intent, hurts not only the students but the society in which we all belong; and

WHEREAS, the education of students provides the most effective and accessible means for personal growth, wellbeing, financial security, and opportunities to advance in society, with its expansion being a proven determinant in cultural, artistic, scientific, and economic flourishing; and

WHEREAS, the necessity of a well-educated populace to democracy, including an understanding of civics and history, respect and practice of scientific advancement, ability to adapt, grow, and innovate economically, and provide a well-trained workforce is apparent across the entirety of modern human history; and

WHEREAS, the active efforts to deprive people of education, in particular those who have been discriminated against as individuals, as communities, or otherwise, of quality, accessible education, has been and is to this day an undeniable truth, along with the generational effects that deprivation has caused throughout history; and,

WHEREAS, the systematic withdrawal of resources to schools and students, including defunding public education, the decreasing of financial aid and resources to students and families, the creation and maintenance of excessive administrative burdens as means of financial exploitation, and the direct exploitation, non-regulation, and complicity towards predatory

financial systems and their arrangements, has had profound and detrimental effects to students by raising the costs of education at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the denial of accessible spaces in which people are free from discrimination, the censorship and removal of books, materials, historical events, and entire subjects from the education curriculum and experience, the active and invasive policing of students and their bodies, and the wanton disregard, complicity, and outright encouragement towards the reckless availability of firearms, are active threats to students and their rights, and are undertaken as a deliberate choice to harm, shame, and discriminate against others; and

WHEREAS, the efforts to combat these detriments and threats to the accessibility and quality of education, as well as to the students and their rights, have been well-intentioned and are owed acknowledgement for their progress in certain areas, and often have come in the face of danger to their person, livelihood, and community; and

WHEREAS, the support for students and their rights, as well as teachers, families, and other groups in our communities dedicated to making education accessible to every student, has been wholly insufficient to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, the threats posed to our students as individuals and a collective, as well as our education system in its role as the foundation for a democratic society, constitutes an existential crisis to our ability to address the problems of our union and our planet; and

WHEREAS, the burdens of securing a fairer, more just, and more equitable democratic future that is free from fascism and the effects of climate change, among other such challenges, will fall on generations of young Americans now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of America are dedicated to the rights of all students, to accessibility of quality education, and a commitment to making our education system a bulwark of true democracy; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America establish, per the addition of the relevant platform plank, the following Student Bill of Rights:

1. Right to Pursue Interests: All students have the right to pursue their interests and passions through a wide variety of educational opportunities and to have access to the resources necessary to do so.
2. Right to Safe and Secure Education: All students have a right to an education free from threats to their life, their security, or their wellbeing. The right of a student to be safe from firearms, police actions, harassment, financial predation, or other hostile experiences shall not be infringed.
3. Freedom of Expression: All students have the right to express themselves freely and openly, including their beliefs, their opinions, their gender, their appearance, and their experience, without fear of censorship or retaliation from governmental or institutional authorities. All students have a right to freedom of expression in school-owned publications, including newspapers and academic journals published by the school.
4. Right to a Quality Education: All students have the right to a high-quality education that is comprehensive, inclusive, and prepares them for success in life. All students have a right to receive instruction from faculty, staff, and graduate students who are compensated in a manner that provides economic security, a right to representation by a union appropriate to their profession, and academic freedom protected with due process.
5. Protection of Core Education: All students have the right to access and learn core subjects, including science, history, social studies, and the arts without the government banning or limiting the teaching of such subjects. All students have the right to extracurricular activities that provide opportunity for educational, social, and professional growth.

6. Due Process: All students have the right to a fair and impartial hearing when accused of violating school policies or regulations related to academic freedom. All students have the right to appeal any decision made by school officials or the government that affects their rights or privileges, and to receive a fair hearing, in accordance with school policies and regulations.
7. Equal Protection: All students have the right to be treated equally and have access to educational spaces which actively pursue inclusivity and non-discrimination based on their origins, appearance, identities, disabilities, health status, beliefs, viewpoints, or the subjects they choose to study.
8. Protection from Censorship: All students have the right to be protected from censorship and suppression of their academic work, including the right to express their viewpoints in class discussions, assignments, and research.
9. Privacy and Personal Labor: All students have the right to access educational and school resources privately and without interference from third parties. No educational institution shall monetize or otherwise benefit from a student's information, data, labor, or other contribution to the institution without their explicit and informed consent, nor punish any student who chooses to withhold their consent. All students have the right to benefit from their labor, value, or other contribution made to the educational institution and shall not have those benefits withheld.
10. Financial Equity: All students have a right to a quality education, free from financial exploitation. All students shall have equal access to healthcare services without discrimination, financial penalty, or undue administrative or financial burden. No student shall be subject to financial instruments that affect the wellbeing, material or otherwise, of the student, such as exorbitant tuition, predatory loans, denial of financial aid or academic progress, withholding of degree or certification, or other such measures.
11. Equitable Employment: All students employed by educational institutions have the right to earn a living wage. All students employed by educational institutions have the right to working conditions that do not impede or affect their ability to pursue their education.

12. Educational Evaluation: All students have a right to being graded and evaluated according to course objectives established and shared with students at the start of the academic term. No student shall be academically evaluated by any other means except for those standards.

and call for its promulgation of and adoption by all Chartered Units of the Young Democrats of America; and, be it

RESOLVED, the Chartered Unit of each state and territory represented within YDA shall adopt a Student Bill of Rights appropriate to their state or territory that shall not exclude any of the provisions adopted by the YDA Student Bill of Rights, but may exceed its provisions; and, be it

RESOLVED, the chapters of each state and territory represented within YDA and their officers are directed to lobby for its passage among local, state, and federal stakeholders with all appropriate action, resource, and material, with the intent of being signed into law no later than January 1st, 2029; and, be it

RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America shall seek adoption of, and direct its representatives to the Democratic National Committee to advocate for, inclusion of a Student Bill of Rights in the 2024 Democratic Presidential Platform and every succeeding election until its passage into federal law and a majority of the states; and, be it

RESOLVED, the officers of Young Democrats of America shall seek the adoption as federal law of the Student Bill of Rights and are directed to lobby for its passage with all appropriate action, resource, and material, with the intent of being signed into law no later than January 1st, 2029; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Young Democrats of America shall remain committed to the ideal

of quality public education being accessible to every person in the United States of America, and remain seized of this matter until that ideal is made reality.

Authors: Ben Braver (FL) and Alex Hamilton (FL)

Sponsors:

Date: June XX, 2023

Effective Time Period: Ongoing

Resolution: Citizenship for All

Whereas equality and inclusivity are fundamental principles of a just and democratic society,

Whereas recognizing the inherent worth and dignity of every individual is a cornerstone of human rights,

Whereas the current disparities and restrictions in citizenship laws hinder the realization of a truly inclusive and equitable society,

We, the Latinx/Hispanic Caucus of the Young Democrats of America, hereby proclaim the policy of "Citizenship for All" as a commitment to upholding the principles of fairness, justice, and human rights.

This policy affirms that citizenship should not be determined solely by one's place of birth, ancestry, or immigration status, but rather by an individual's inherent worth and contributions to society.

Under the policy of "Citizenship for All," we declare the following principles:

1. **Equal Access:** Every individual within our jurisdiction, regardless of nationality or immigration status, shall have equal access to the rights, benefits, and opportunities associated with citizenship.
2. **Inclusive Pathways:** We shall endeavor to establish clear and accessible pathways to citizenship, ensuring that individuals who have resided within our jurisdiction for a substantial period, and who contribute to our society, have a fair and transparent process to obtain citizenship.
3. **Removal of Discriminatory Barriers:** We shall review and amend existing citizenship laws to remove discriminatory provisions and practices that perpetuate inequalities and restrict access to citizenship based on factors unrelated to an individual's character, abilities, or commitment to our shared values.
4. **Integration and Support:** We commit to providing comprehensive support and resources to individuals pursuing citizenship, including language and cultural integration programs, educational opportunities, and access to social services.

5. Protection of Rights: Once granted citizenship, individuals shall enjoy the full rights and protections afforded by our laws, including but not limited to voting rights, social benefits, legal safeguards, and participation in the democratic process.

We recognize that implementing "Citizenship for All" may require legislative, administrative, and societal changes. Therefore, we call upon all stakeholders, including lawmakers, civil society organizations, and community members, to collaborate in realizing this vision of a more inclusive and egalitarian society.

By embracing "Citizenship for All," we affirm our commitment to human rights, equality, and justice. We believe that by embracing the principles of inclusivity and equal citizenship, we can build stronger communities, foster social cohesion, and create a brighter future for all.



YOUNG DEMOCRATS *of*
ARIZONA

Resolution: No Confidence in Senator Kyrsten Sinema

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of Arizona and the Young Democrats of America are dedicated to promoting the interests and well-being of the people of Arizona and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Senator Kyrsten Sinema, an Independent Senator representing Arizona, has demonstrated actions that indicate a prioritization of personal interests over the welfare of everyday Arizonans and Americans; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to hold elected officials accountable and ensure that they faithfully carry out their duties in the best interests of their constituents and the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Young Democrats of Arizona and the Young Democrats of America believe that elected officials should prioritize the needs and aspirations of their constituents over personal agendas;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of Arizona and the Young Democrats of America express a lack of confidence in Senator Kyrsten Sinema's ability to fulfill her obligations as a Senator while considering the best interests of Arizona and the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of Arizona and the Young Democrats of America call upon the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) to withdraw all forms of support from Senator Kyrsten Sinema and publicly endorse the Arizona Democratic candidate in the upcoming elections;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of Arizona and the Young Democrats of America encourage the DNC and the DSCC to actively work towards supporting and promoting candidates who align more closely with the values and priorities of the Democratic Party and the constituents they aim to represent.

Resolved on this [date] by the Young Democrats of Arizona and the Young Democrats of America.

The Young Democrats of America Celebrate the Life of Shawn Joseph Soares

WHEREAS, Shawn Soares was a dedicated public servant, a Central Committee member of the Democratic Party of Virginia, and a National Committee Member of the Young Democrats of America, whose life and legacy was tragically cut short on May 4, 2023 when he was 26 years old; and

WHEREAS, Shawn was born in Goa, India on March 19, 1997 to Alec and Nimmi Soares. He moved to Florida in 2005 after spending much of his childhood in Qatar, and moved to Virginia in 2010; and

WHEREAS, Shawn Soares served Virginia working as an Outreach Director for the late Congressman Don McEachin, as an Outreach Director for Governor Ralph Northam, and a Legislative Assistant for Delegate Suhas Subramanyam; and

WHEREAS, Shawn served the Virginia Young Democrats as Treasurer for 2 years and was elected their National Committee Representative on April 15, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Shawn was an active member of the Metro Richmond Area Young Democrats and an active member of the Richmond community; and

WHEREAS, Shawn dedicated his life to bettering our commonwealth, our country, and our planet by fighting for climate justice and social change; and

WHEREAS, Shawn Soares was a first generation American, first to graduate college in his family, and was pursuing his Masters in Business Administration at Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, Shawn Soares was a 2022 graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Shawn Soares was an accomplished musician, performing as a DJ under the name "Mezmerizeez," even opening a show at The Anthem in Washington, D.C. for his favorite artist, Tipper, and once said, "Music keeps me happy. Politics keeps me driven;" and

WHEREAS, Shawn Soares was a devoted son, boyfriend, and cat-dad who touched so many lives, improved the ones he came into contact with, and brought immense joy, happiness, support, and love to so many; and

WHEREAS, Shawn Soares and his smile will lovingly live on through the memory of his loving parents; his girlfriend, Anna; his cat, Lilly; his family in India, Canada, and Qatar; and his many friends; and

RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America celebrates the life of Shawn Soares. May his memory be eternal and may he set the standard for every Young Democrat in the United States of America to live up to. May he rest in peace.



PAUL A. PRESENDIEU
CHAIR

HON. DEVIN T. MURPHY
CHAIR EMERITUS

Resolution Calling on President Biden To Declare a National Climate Emergency

WHEREAS, the climate and environmental justice crises are escalating at the local, national and global levels; and

WHEREAS, climate disasters have impacted 90% of U.S. counties since 2011; and

WHEREAS, the consequences of the escalating crisis are grave to human health, mental health, livelihoods, biodiversity, and our future; and

WHEREAS, communities harmed disproportionately by the climate emergency are Black, Brown, Indigenous, low-income, women, and those with disabilities, and these are the people and communities which have contributed the least to the causes of the crisis; and

WHEREAS, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has recently stated, “This is a climate emergency. Climate scientists warn that we are already perilously close to tipping points that could lead to cascading and irreversible climate impacts; and

WHEREAS, this existential threat requires that we employ all the tools at our disposal—legislative, regulatory, and executive—to act; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party Platform states “Climate change is a global emergency” and that “We have no time to waste to protect Americans’ lives and futures,” and further calls for Democrats to build “a thriving, equitable and globally competitive economy that puts workers and communities first, and leaves no one behind”; and

WHEREAS, Democrats’ efforts to fight global heating are up against opposition that benefits from the status quo: the fossil fuel industry, wealthy corporations, a corrupt Supreme Court, and politicians on Big Oil’s payroll; and

WHEREAS, with a Republican-controlled Congress, we can’t depend on legislation to address the increasing dangers and intensity of the climate crisis—and we can’t afford to wait 2 years for action; and

WHEREAS, declaration of a National Climate Emergency would enable the Biden-Harris Administration to reinstate the crude oil export ban, invest in large scale mitigation and resiliency projects, further grow clean energy and transportation manufacturing, create millions of good-paying jobs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, declaration of a National Climate Emergency would enable the U.S. to build on the historic climate progress of the last two years;

THEREFORE, for these reasons, we are asking the Young Democrats of America to urge President Biden and his Administration to declare a National Climate Emergency under the National Emergencies Act, and to use the full extent of his executive and regulatory powers to address this most pressing global and national crisis.

WHEREAS the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem have been under Israeli occupation for over 55 years; and

WHEREAS 250 Israeli settlements covering over 10% of the West Bank have been built since the occupation began in 1967;¹ and

WHEREAS over 500,000 Israelis currently live on settlements in the West Bank;² and

WHEREAS the West Bank settlements violate the Fourth Geneva Convention³ and have forcibly displaced 13,793 Palestinians from their homes since 2009;⁴ and

WHEREAS attacks against Palestinian civilians by West Bank settlers increased by 170% between 2017 and 2022;⁵ and

WHEREAS numerous former Israeli military commanders and security experts have stated that the financial and personnel costs of protecting the West Bank settlements overextend the Israeli military and leave the country more vulnerable to threats from terrorist groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ);⁶ and

WHEREAS the hundreds of billions of New Israeli Shekels (NIS) spent on West Bank settlements have left social programs and infrastructure investments for Israel within the Green Line (a.k.a. "Israel-proper") chronically starved of funds;⁷ and

WHEREAS the Trump Administration's customs rule changes labeling all products made in Area C of the West Bank as "Made in Israel" and allowing U.S. taxpayer-funding for projects on West Bank settlements administered by binational foundations have yet to be rescinded;⁸ and

WHEREAS a 2015 investigation by the Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, found that 50 U.S.-based tax-exempt nonprofits have spent hundreds of millions of dollars on West Bank settlement expansion;⁹ and

¹ <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/west-bank-humanitarian-impact-israeli-settlement-activities>

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/02/02/jewish-settlers-west-bank-half-million/>

³ <https://www.amnestyusa.org/lets-be-clear-israels-long-running-settlement-policy-constitutes-a-war-crime/>

⁴ <https://www.ochaopt.org/data/demolition>

⁵

<https://www.premiere-urgence.org/en/in-west-bank-violence-by-israeli-settlers-against-palestinians-is-rising-at-a-staggering-rate/>

⁶

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2017-06-05/ty-article/.premium/israeli-ex-generals-settlements-do-not-serve-security-needs/0000017f-f80b-d044-adff-fbfbfef50000>

⁷

<https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/2023-02-28/ty-article-opinion/.premium/government-starves-public-housing-in-israel-as-it-feeds-the-settlements/00000186-94b4-d49b-a9be-bdbf82a20000?fbclid=IwAR21teYDzIISVCsThTpcTtUIPrWEgBMeL5O3094e1H8x1hCQo9RJvowtbEM>

⁸ <https://jstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BILL-SUMMARY-The-Two-State-Solution-Act-021022-1244.pdf>

⁹

<https://www.haaretz.com/2015-12-07/ty-article/haaretz-investigates-u-s-donors-to-israeli-settlements/0000017f-f6bb-d460-aff-ffffd93e0000>

WHEREAS Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and much of his government have repeatedly called for the illegal annexation of all or part of the West Bank; and

WHEREAS continued settlement expansion and the annexation of the West Bank would undermine any possibility for the creation of a viable independent Palestinian state; and

WHEREAS Israel's Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich of the Religious Zionists Party, has called for doubling the West Bank settler population,¹⁰ said the Palestinian village of Huwara should be violently "wiped out,"¹¹ and denied the very existence of the Palestinian people;¹² and

WHEREAS Israel's National Security Minister, Itamar Ben-Gvir of the Otzma Yehudit Party, has repeatedly incited violence against Palestinian civilians and has ties to the right-wing extremist Kach Movement, which has been declared a terrorist organization by the U.S. and the EU;¹³ and

WHEREAS 2022 saw both the highest number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces since 2005 and the highest number of Israelis killed by Palestinian militants since 2008;¹⁴ and

WHEREAS the U.S. and the EU have labeled Hamas¹⁵ and PIJ¹⁶ terrorist organizations; and

WHEREAS Hamas and PIJ have repeatedly called for the violent destruction of Israel¹⁷ and the killing of all Jews;¹⁸ and

WHEREAS Hamas has violently suppressed political dissent in Gaza using tactics such as torture, arbitrary detention,¹⁹ and summary executions;²⁰ and

¹⁰

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2023-05-18/ty-article/.premium/far-right-israeli-minister-lays-groundwork-for-doubling-west-bank-settler-population/00000188-2de6-d6e4-ab9d-ed74a3e0000>

¹¹

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/israel-benjamin-netanyahu-bezalel-smotrich-hawara-village-wiped-out-rcna73444>

¹² <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/israel-bezalel-smotrich-map-jordan-palestinian-nation-history-west-bank-gaza/>

¹³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2023/02/15/israel-ben-gvir-netanyahu-government/>

¹⁴

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/israel-palestine-number-killed-highest-2008#:~:text=Twenty%2Dseven%20Israeli%20civilians%20and,analysis%20of%20United%20Nations%20figures.>

¹⁵ <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/what-hamas>

¹⁶

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/abs/history-of-palestinian-islamic-jihad/history-of-palestinian-islamic-jihad/AF33E414CF6B3EDACCA01A1B23525B2>

¹⁷

<https://apnews.com/article/gaza-islamic-jihad-israel-hamas-conflict-militants-palestinian-1e45e7c653009c87a7d52ebee5595>

¹⁸ <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/kill-all-the-jews-says-senior-hamas-figure-zvx9jshbb>

¹⁹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2018/10/23/palestine-authorities-crush-dissent>

²⁰

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2015/05/gaza-palestinians-tortured-summarily-killed-by-hamas-forces-during-2014-conflict/>

WHEREAS organizations such as Human Rights Watch have labeled Hamas and PIJ's rocket and mortar attacks against Israeli civilians as war crimes;²¹ and

WHEREAS Israel's U.S.-funded Iron Dome missile defense system has shot down up to 97% of rockets fired against Israeli civilians by Hamas and PIJ;²² and

WHEREAS Palestinian groups such as Youth Against the Settlements²³ and the Palestinian Peace Coalition²⁴ have repeatedly collaborated with Israeli and binational groups such as Peace Now, Standing Together, Breaking the Silence, Looking the Occupation in the Eye, Combatants for Peace, Checkpoint Watch, the Harvest Coalition, and Jordan Valley Activists to promote nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience against the Israeli occupation;²⁵ and

WHEREAS groups such as the Gaza Youth Committee²⁶ and other Palestinians in Gaza have repeatedly protested against Hamas and Israel's blockade of Gaza since the We Want to Live protests were violently suppressed in March 2019;²⁷ and

WHEREAS former Rep. Andy Levin's proposed Two State Solution Act would prohibit U.S.-provided aid or military equipment from being used to "[support unilateral Israeli efforts to annex or exercise permanent control over any part of the occupied Palestinian territory, including through settlement expansion, demolitions or evictions](#),"²⁸ and

WHEREAS the U.S. has previously implemented human rights-based end-use restrictions on military aid to countries such as Egypt;²⁹ and

WHEREAS the most recent polling data from YouGov shows that 51% of Palestinians support a two-state solution.³⁰

Therefore, Be It Resolved That The Young Democrats of America:

1. Reiterates its support for a two-state solution based on the creation of a viable Palestinian state with a diplomatically negotiated settlement between Israel and Palestine over borders and the status of Palestinian refugees.
2. Calls upon Congress to prohibit U.S.-provided aid or military equipment from being used to "[support unilateral Israeli efforts to annex or exercise permanent control over any part](#)

²¹

https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/12/palestinian-rockets-may-killed-civilians-israel-gaza?fbclid=IwAR1Twm7-KOdz866oU_BOBID_X78t_FJEqNCgy_h90Uvww6jRQqiS_KW6ZVw

²² <https://www.timesofisrael.com/580-rockets-fired-from-gaza-since-friday-iron-dome-at-97-success-rate/>

²³ <https://progressive.org/latest/youth-against-settlements-fighting-israeli-occupation-giovanetti-190815/>

²⁴ <https://geneva-accord.org/two-state-coalition/>

²⁵ <https://www.972mag.com/israel-peace-camp-bulldozer-homesh/>

²⁶

https://gershonbaskin.org/insights/the-gaza-youth-committee-request-for-support/?fbclid=IwAR0KzY7_4Id6wUDSmNYDMLbXGeUbTciY8Cv2gjd15LGi4veQswEXasCTUMc

²⁷ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-60173481>

²⁸ <https://jstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BILL-SUMMARY-The-Two-State-Solution-Act-021022-1244.pdf>

²⁹

https://carnegieendowment.org/2021/05/12/bringing-assistance-to-israel-in-line-with-rights-and-u.s.-laws-pub-84503?fbclid=IwAR0QzUff0cMlnavqlm9B3EB-fUJdT90X7RyxZoEQ-CRxbAsX_1qpvz-00k

³⁰ <https://www.arabnews.com/node/2303256/middle-east>

[of the occupied Palestinian territory, including through settlement expansion, demolitions or evictions.](#)³¹

3. Calls upon the Biden Administration to revoke the Trump Administration’s customs rule changes labeling all products made in Area C of the West Bank as “Made in Israel” and allowing U.S. taxpayer-funding for projects on West Bank settlements administered by binational foundations.
4. Urges the federal government to revoke the tax-exempt status of American nonprofits who fund illegal West Bank settlement expansion while still allowing American nonprofits to support Israeli communities within the Green Line.
5. Calls upon the State Department to bar Bezalel Smotrich, Itamar Ben-Gvir, and all elected officials from their respective parties from entering in the U.S.
6. Condemns Hamas, PIJ, and all terrorist organizations who deliberately target Israeli civilians and supports efforts by the U.S. and its allies to prevent these groups from acquiring weapons.
7. Supports continued U.S.-support for the Iron Dome missile defense system.
8. Applauds progressive Israelis and Palestinians engaged in nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience against the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and Hamas’ rule over Gaza.

³¹ <https://jstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/BILL-SUMMARY-The-Two-State-Solution-Act-021022-1244.pdf>

WHEREAS the so-called “War on Drugs” has been one of America’s greatest crimes against its citizens;

WHEREAS drug possession for personal use is always either a victimless crime or the result of an individual suffering with addiction;

WHEREAS one of the main reasons America continues criminalizing drug possession is to support the corporate interests within the pharmaceutical, private prison, and other industries;

WHEREAS revenue streams from the criminalization of drugs often only feed into law enforcement and almost never into treatment or social programming;

WHEREAS many local municipalities rarely collect the actual amount of fines given out for drug related crimes;

WHEREAS the costs local municipalities take on enforcing drug possession laws and connected sentences often far exceed the revenue brought in;

WHEREAS schools and youth programs have largely failed with the “Just Say No” messaging as opposed to investing more into treatment, harm reduction, and accurate educational programming;

WHEREAS sentences for drug possession are given out in a blatantly racist way that largely contributes to the racial and income disparities in our nations criminal justice system;

WHEREAS people of color are more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, convicted, and harshly sentenced, particularly in the case of drug law violations;

WHEREAS the war on drugs increases the risk of deportation among undocumented people;

WHEREAS the United States has the world's largest prison population at around 25% while hosting less than 5% of the world’s total population;

WHEREAS 1 in every 9 Black Children, 1 in every 28 Latine Children, and 1 in every 57 white children have a parent in prison;

WHEREAS 46% of the United States prison population is imprisoned for drug offenses;

WHEREAS 59% of all women sentenced to federal prison are serving time for drug offenses;

WHEREAS nearly 80% of people in federal prison and almost 60% of people in state prison for drug offenses are black or latine;

WHEREAS inmates with opioid use disorder are at a higher risk for overdose following release;

WHEREAS the US Government has used drug war policies to discredit the Civil Rights Movement and attack black leaders;

WHEREAS the Nixon administration's domestic policy advisor admitted the drug war was used to attack the Civil Rights movement and that the administration knew that they were lying about drugs;

WHEREAS the Reagan Administration advanced policies that exasperated Nixon's war on drugs;

WHEREAS under the Clinton Administration the 1994 crime bill further strengthened drug war policies and doubled the US Prison population by 2009;

WHEREAS there has been a large rise in unintentional overdoses of substances like fentanyl;

WHEREAS the criminalization of drugs like cocaine, heroin, and many others makes it easier for the black markets to cut drugs with fentanyl and other substances that the user does not know they are buying often resulting in overdose;

WHEREAS the war on drugs adds to stigma against people suffering from addiction;

WHEREAS addiction stigma and drug law violations make it harder for people to find jobs, housing, loans, education and professional licenses, and to vote;

WHEREAS addiction stigma has caused bad policy that makes recreational drugs more dangerous than they need to be through bans on harm reduction products;

WHEREAS drug testing devices are only legal or decriminalized in 21 jurisdictions across the United States;

WHEREAS the opioid epidemic continues to take the lives of Americans young and old;

WHEREAS many experts agree harm reduction tactics like free harm reduction vending machines, the legal sale of drug testing kits, and public needle exchanges would reduce fatalities;

WHEREAS there is currently a strong movement of people pressing for total drug law reform and winning major victories;

WHEREAS the State of Oregon and some municipalities are already roadmapping successful drug decriminalization and treatment based models and other States like Washington have begun the work to transform their drug policy;

WHEREAS the State of Minnesota recently became the first state to legalize the sale and possession of drug paraphernalia to support harm reduction efforts;

WHEREAS the Wisconsin Democratic Party has adopted a resolution calling to decriminalize addiction by decriminalizing drug possession for personal use;

WHEREAS America already has huge, legal recreational drug industries in alcohol, tobacco, and caffeine;

WHEREAS recreational marijuana is legal in 22 States, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, US Virgin Islands, and Washington, D.C, but in other States people are given prison sentences for possessing marijuana;

WHEREAS medical marijuana is legal in 38 States, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands and Washington, D.C;

WHEREAS in many municipalities within States that have not legalized medical or recreational marijuana, local elected officials are beginning to take matters into their own hands by lowering municipal possession fines and decriminalizing marijuana;

WHEREAS Psilocybin is decriminalized in Oregon, Washington D.C. and cities within California, Massachusetts, and Washington;

WHEREAS Colorado voted to decriminalize dimethyltryptamine, ibogaine, mescaline, psilocybin, and psilocyn for possession and supervised administration;

WHEREAS the natural psychedelic medicines legalized in Colorado are non-addictive and benefit individuals suffering with anxiety and depression;

WHEREAS marijuana, psilocybin, MDMA, and many other currently illicit substances have medical benefits that experts agree on;

WHEREAS the FDA has granted psilocybin “breakthrough treatment” status;

WHEREAS people are being fined and jailed for possessing legitimate medicine;

WHEREAS, effective medical research is often unable to proceed due to current controlled substance laws;

WHEREAS Democrats believe in science

WHEREAS Democrats believe in a fair justice system

WHEREAS Americans should have a just, science-based approach to addressing the nations addiction epidemic;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Young Democrats of America calls for an end to the “War on Drugs” from the Federal to Local level;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Young Democrats of America call on States to invest in addiction harm reduction programing, legalize the possession and sale of drug testing devices and other drug paraphernalia, and legalize possession of safe and natural psychedelics, while implementing natural medicine access programs;

FINALLY RESOLVED the Young Democrats of America calls on elected representatives around the nation to decriminalize drug possession for personal use, legalize recreational marijuana, allocate drug enforcement responsibilities to health departments as opposed to law enforcement, and to adopt health care models that allow those suffering from addictions to receive affordable and effective treatment.

Author: Kyle Flood, Vice Chair of Young Democrats of Wisconsin

Young Democrats of America Resolution honors the work Illinois signing into law HB 2789 which preempts local school boards, school districts, or library systems from banning books:

1. **WHEREAS**, countless far right wing members of local office are passing policies to take books
2. Off the shelves of our local libraries, school boards, and school districts;
3. **WHEREAS**, this bill would explicitly outlaw book banning and would protect the kind of
4. books that have been under attack in many schools and libraries;
5. **WHEREAS**, these books include topics of exploration of race and ethnicity, sexual orientation
6. and gender identity, sexual health and reproductive health, religion and faith background,
7. biographies, autobiographies, and memoirs about rights and activism.
8. **WHEREAS**, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, New York, Georgia,
9. North Carolina, Virginia, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin, Idaho and Utah
10. have all banned books in 2023;
11. **WHEREAS**, 1,477 instances of books being banned nationwide during the first half of the
12. 2022-23 school year, affecting 874 individual titles;
13. **WHEREAS**, this bill trusts librarians and tasks the Illinois State Librarian and the
14. Illinois State Library with adopting the American Library Association's Library
15. Bill of Rights, statewide. This bill of rights indicates that reading materials
16. should not be proscribed, removed, or restricted because of partisan or personal
17. disapproval. Illinois libraries would only be eligible for state-funded grants if
18. they adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights.
19. **RESOLVED**, the Young Democrats of America should prioritize the fight for access to identity
20. affirming books and support local libraries across the nation in their battle to maintain life-saving
21. knowledge for youth;
22. **RESOLVED**, the Young Democrats of America trust librarians and will staunchly oppose
23. censorship of books, intimidation of library workers, and will fight alongside librarians when they
24. are facing pressure to remove books;
25. **RESOLVED**, the Young Democrats of America see this attack on libraries as a fundamental
26. attack on democracy and freedom of information
27. **RESOLVED**, we call on the Young Democrats of Illinois to write a letter to urge textbook
28. publishers including the Association of American Publishers, Cengage Learning,
29. Goodheart-Willcox, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, McGraw Hill Education, Pearson, Routledge
30. Taylor and Francis Group, Savvas Learning Co., Scholastic, and Teachers Curriculum Institute to
31. not censor educational materials in the face of additional pressure from republicans.

Submitted by:

Lead sponsor: Celeste Flores- IL

Izzy Dobbel - IL

Tom Mailard - IL

Young Democrats of America Resolution honors the work of the Labor movement in Illinois when they passed Amendment 1, the Workers Rights Amendment, which enshrined collective bargaining into the Illinois state constitution:

1. **WHEREAS**, there are 26 states and 1 U.S. territory that are currently “Right to Work”,
2. **WHEREAS**, “Right to Work” is a designed to take rights and organizing capacity away from
3. working people,
4. **WHEREAS**, Right to Work is known to take power away from working people and put it into
5. the
6. hands of large corporations to exploit working people,
7. **WHEREAS**, Illinois and Chicago are known to be the “birthplace of the labor movement” started
8. by the Haymarket Massacre on May 4th, 1886 which began as a peaceful rally in support of
9. workers striking for an eight-hour work day and an unknown assailant threw a dynamite bomb at
10. the police as they acted to disperse the meeting,
11. **WHEREAS**, 94 Pullman Strike,
12. **WHEREAS**, The Workers' Rights Amendment, passed on November 15, 2022 with 54.5% of
13. total ballots cast,
14. **WHEREAS**, the WAR enshrines the right to collective bargaining in the Illinois Constitution.
15. The amendment asked voters to establish a constitutional right to negotiate "wages, hours, and
16. working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work."
17. **WHEREAS**, Workers Rights Amendment is the new standard for what workers deserve and will
18. not be the limit to the protections they should be afforded,
19. **RESOLVED**, that the Young Democrats of America see this first-in-the-nation ballot measure
20. as
21. an example of how to protect workers rights across the country and ensure labor rights for each
22. working person
23. **RESOLVED**, the Young Democrats of America support the repeal of Right to Work laws in all
24. 26 states and 1 U.S. territory,
25. **RESOLVED**, that the Young Democrats of America are committed to support the labor
26. movement as future ballot measures are introduced across the nation to advance workers rights

Submitted by:

Izzy Dobbel - IL
Tom Mailard - IL

YDA Resolution in Honor of the life of Michigan Progressive Activist Zahra Abbas

The life of Zahra Abbas ended suddenly during the morning of July 28, 2022 to the great shock, disbelief and horror of those who had the privilege of knowing her and benefitting from her acquaintance and friendship. We therefore offer the following memorial resolution to YDA.

WHEREAS, The life of Zahra Abbas ended suddenly during the morning of July 28, 2022 while in bed at her family home in Dearborn, MI where she lived with her parents and siblings.

WHEREAS, Zahra suffered throughout her life from a very debilitating and drug resistant form of epilepsy that required frequent hospitalizations and two brain surgeries and near death events, but in spite of this Zahra maintained a positive and infectious outlook and determination to stand up and commit to helping others.

WHEREAS, Zahra was a strong activist and advocate for marijuana legalization for medical and recreational purposes, and benefitted from the administration of marijuana to help control her epilepsy, and fearlessly chose to break barriers and share her story.

WHEREAS, Zahra was an active participant in the Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan to educate the public, provide an example of what was possible for people with epilepsy, and to advocate for others suffering from this severe medical condition. Zahra traveled to DC every year for the Epilepsy Foundation Walk to advocate in DC for National Legislation to better the lives of those with epilepsy.

WHEREAS, Zahra was committed to being a strong advocate for progressive issues within the Democratic Party. She became a leader in the Michigan Progressive Caucus, Michigan Cannabis Caucus, MI NORML, Michigan Disability Caucus and served two terms as Young Democrats of Michigan Secretary. She became a member of the Michigan Democratic Party State Central Committee, representing Dearborn for Congressional District 12.

WHEREAS, Zahra was elected as the first Arab American DNC Delegate from Michigan in 2020 and was the only Young Dems DNC Delegate from MI at the time. Zahra took this role seriously as she knew the barriers she was breaking and the path she was paving for others to follow. She was a member of the Progressive Caucus of the DNC fighting for reform and more inclusion. She was an advocate for the DNC Environmental and Climate Crisis Council, and advocated loudly and proudly for Green New Deal Legislation.

WHEREAS, Zahra was pivotal in the passage of Proposal 1 of 2018 for Marijuana Legalization in Michigan, and Proposal 2 of 2018 to End Gerrymandering and redraw the lines in Michigan, both of which were added to the state of Michigan Constitution in 2018.

WHEREAS, Zahra worked tirelessly for progressive candidates on a federal, state and local level in helping them get elected, holding them accountable, and working with office holders to advocate for agendas that benefited the most needy and underrepresented. In Michigan, it is known that no one could phone bank, knock doors, write postcards and send texts like Zahra could.

WHEREAS, Zahra never let the fact of her inability to drive due to epilepsy and the lack of public transit in Michigan get in her way of getting to places where she could work for the benefit of others. She was determined to be everywhere, fighting for all people.

WHEREAS, Zahra worked to advance her education in spite of difficulties so that she could try to become a medical assistant and intended to pursue a degree in Public Health Administration to fight for Universal Healthcare and better quality care and inclusion for those with disabilities.

WHEREAS, Zahra was proud of her appointment to be in charge of Dearborn Pipers, which was a recreational sports program in Dearborn, MI for special needs children, and proud of her advocacy work with Healthy Dearborn.

WHEREAS, Zahra was a proud Lebanese Muslim Woman, who patiently educated young Dems on her culture and experiences and changed the narrative in Michigan and used her work and identity to advocate for the newly founded YDA Muslim Caucus.

WHEREAS, Zahra was the reason behind our Michigan State Party Vice Chair creating a yearly Coalition Dinner that was financially accessible to Dems from all walks of life in Michigan, because Zahra knew the struggle of getting into the rooms with heavy costs and saw a need and set out to fix it.

WHEREAS, Zahra, right to her last day, was one of the most positive and impactful, compassionate, and empathetic people that anyone would want to meet and on the day before her death she worked with her childrens' program and then came to the Dearborn Dems picnic to mingle with other local Democrats. She was doing the work up to her very last night with us.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Young Democrats of America honor and recognize the short but impactful life of an outstanding human being and Young Democrats of America member, Zahra Abbas. A human being who made the lives of others richer for having known her and who made every effort to improve the lives of those less fortunate. May her legacy live on in those of us fighting the fights she believed in and fought for.



Young Democrats of America Resolution honors the hard work and dedication of DACA recipients following the 11th anniversary of the program. Democrats of all immigration statuses are crucial to the democratic process, and are welcome in YDA chapters across the country. Young Democrats of America champions DACA recipients, enshrining our organizational support for immigrant participation in the following resolution:

1. **WHEREAS**, there are an estimated 1,000,000 recipients of the DACA program,
2. **WHEREAS**, “DACA” is defined as the Obama-era program designed to protect undocumented children of immigrants from deportation.
3. **WHEREAS**, Young Democrats of America enlists the support of Democratic youth across the country
4. **WHEREAS**, “Democrat” is not exclusively defined by party registration of citizen voters, but rather the ideological leanings of an individual,
5. **RESOLVED**, that the Young Democrats of America encourage revision of state chapter bylaws to allow non-citizen participation in state chapters,
6. **RESOLVED**, the Young Democrats of America support the inclusion of DACA recipients in every aspect of the organization, including appointed and elected positions,
7. **RESOLVED**, that the Young Democrats of America are committed to supporting DACA recipients in the plight for immigration reform and access to equitable participatory rights in the democratic process.

Submitted by: Cristian Corza - CT

A Resolution in Memoriam of Bob Kubichek

Whereas, Bob Kubichek, a Young Democrat and passionate progressive Utahn, with deep roots in Laramie Wyoming, was a force of nature who lit up our delegation and state with his passion;

Whereas, Bob's work in our state professionalized field organizing, data analysis, and voter targeting, making his firm, Landslide Political, among the premier paid canvassing firms in the West;

Whereas, his passion for knocking doors, raising money, and raising hell left a lasting impact on everyone he met;

Whereas, Bob was never afraid of an adventure or a new friend, gave his whole heart to whomever needed it, and could make you laugh even when something horrible, like this, had just happened;

Whereas, Bob loved nature, hated humidity, and was always passionate about his Mountain West homes of Utah and Wyoming;

Whereas, Bob made sure nobody was ever left alone, and everyone made it home safely after a night out;

Whereas, Bob – a blue beacon in the Beehive State and the best of YDA and YDU, successfully worked to elect members of Congress, Governors, Attorneys General, and an uncountable number of state legislators, mayors, and other public officials;

Whereas, Bob knew better than anyone how to work hard for his community, his candidates, and his causes; and

Whereas, he will be remembered by his business, his family, his beloved hairless guinea pigs, the entire Utah delegation, every candidate and elected official who benefited from his tireless work, and all those who knew him;

Be it Resolved by the Young Democrats of America that this body:

- 1) Recognizes the significant contributions of Bob Kubichek to the state of Utah and the Western Region;
- 2) Honors Bob Kubichek's passion by committing to continue his work of uplifting our voices, amplifying the power of young voters, and hitting the streets and wearing our shoes down to the sole; and
- 3) Extends its sincerest condolences to his family, friends, and fellow Democrats for the loss of a champion, a friend, and an organizer.

Sponsorship Alignment with the Values of the Young Democrats of America

Purpose:

The purpose of this resolution is to ensure that the Young Democrats of America (YDA) receive clean money. Thus, this resolution states that all sponsors must propagate and carry values that are in alignment with the core values and principles of the organization.

Definitions:

- a. Sponsor: An individual, organization, or entity providing financial or material support to the Young Democrats of America for events, programs, campaigns, or other activities.
- b. Young Democrats of America (YDA): A national organization dedicated to empowering young people and promoting progressive ideals and policies.

Sponsorship Eligibility:

In order to be permitted to sponsor the Young Democrats of America, sponsors must demonstrate a consistent alignment with the values and principles held by the organization.

Alignment Criteria:

Sponsors shall be evaluated based on their demonstrated alignment with the core values of the Young Democrats of America, which include but are not limited to:

- a. Progressive Ideals: Sponsors should support policies and initiatives that promote social justice, equality, diversity, and inclusion.
- b. Democratic Principles: Sponsors should adhere to democratic principles, including fair and free elections, respect for civil liberties, and the protection of human rights.
- c. Environmental Stewardship: Sponsors should demonstrate a commitment to environmental sustainability, conservation, and combating climate change.
- d. Economic Justice: Sponsors should advocate for economic policies that promote fairness, equity, and the well-being of all individuals, particularly marginalized communities.
- e. LGBTQ+ Rights: Sponsors should support equal rights and protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer individuals.
- f. Women's Rights: Sponsors should promote gender equality, reproductive rights, and the empowerment of women.
- g. Racial and Social Justice: Sponsors should actively work towards dismantling systemic racism, combating discrimination, and promoting social equity.
- h. Indigenous People's Rights: Sponsors should respect and support the rights, sovereignty, and self-determination of indigenous peoples everywhere.

Evaluation Process:

- a. The President will establish an evaluation process to assess the alignment of potential sponsors with the organization's values.
- b. The evaluation process may include reviewing the sponsor's public statements, actions, affiliations, track record, and any other relevant information.
- c. The evaluation process shall be fair, transparent, and objective, ensuring that all sponsors are given equal opportunity for consideration.

Decision and Approval:

- a. Based on the evaluation process, the Young Democrats of America shall determine whether a potential sponsor meets the alignment criteria.
- b. The decision shall be made by the YDA leadership or a designated committee responsible for sponsor evaluations.
- c. Sponsors that meet the alignment criteria shall be approved for sponsorship.

Review and Reevaluation:

The Young Democrats of America shall periodically review and reevaluate sponsors to ensure their continued alignment with the organization's values. If a sponsor no longer meets the alignment criteria, their sponsorship may be reconsidered or terminated.

Compliance:

All sponsors approved by the Young Democrats of America must adhere to the terms and conditions set forth by the organization regarding their sponsorship.

Amendments:

The Young Democrats of America reserves the right to amend or modify this rule as deemed necessary to reflect changes in the organization's values, principles, or requirements for sponsor alignment.

Effective Date:

This rule shall be effective upon its adoption by the Young Democrats of America, and sponsors shall be notified accordingly.

Note: The wording and specific criteria in this rule can be further customized and tailored to the specific values and requirements of the Young Democrats of America.

Signatories:

Zachary Kihm, California

Mizraim Zabdiel Hernandez Gavilan, Illinois

Resolution Supporting the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact

By Scott Urbanowski (Michigan)

WHEREAS, twice in the past six presidential elections, the winner of the national popular vote for President has not won the Electoral College;

WHEREAS, the U.S. Constitution allows states to allocate their electoral votes however they see fit;

WHEREAS, under the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact, states and the District of Columbia who are part of the compact give their electoral votes to whichever presidential ticket wins the national popular vote;

WHEREAS, this compact would take effect if approved by jurisdictions possessing a majority of electoral votes (270 out of 538)

WHEREAS, jurisdictions representing 205 electoral votes, including 17 states and the District of Columbia, have already enacted the compact, meaning that only 65 more electoral votes' worth of states need to do so for it to take effect;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America endorses the National Vote Interstate Compact;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America encourages state lawmakers and governors to support legislation that would add their states and electoral votes to the compact.

Resolution:

Subject: Democratic Party: Young Democrats of America (YDA): International Relations and National Security: Free Speech & the Iranian Women's Movement

Resolution Supporting the Iranian Women's Freedom Movement Against the Iranian Regime's Attempts at Political Censorship

WHEREAS, Mahsa Zhina Amini's death on September 16, 2022, sparked the first female-led Iranian revolution of our time, bringing thousands of Iranian teenagers, students, men, and women of all ages to take to the streets and university campuses to protest the brutality and repression of the Iranian regime against its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Iranian authorities have responded to these political protests by seeking to suppress freedom of speech and dissent by restricting internet access, removing access to communications tools, monitoring social media for protestors criticizing the government, and ordering the imprisonment and even death of civilian protestors for exercising speech; and

WHEREAS, the Iranian people are subject to widespread use of their government's technology infrastructure and suppression tools — some of which were sold to the regime by U.S. companies; and

WHEREAS, millions of Iranians struggle to connect to the Internet due to the government's efforts to enforce technological censorship;

BE IT RESOLVED that The Young Democrats of America, supports the fundamental right to free speech, and encourages Western governments to deny export permits for technology that further enable the Iranian regime to harass and/or censor Iranian dissidents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America encourages privately-held American entities to support freedom from government censorship as a matter of corporate responsibility; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America encourages private initiatives with the ultimate goal of minimizing government access to and/or monitoring of private communications, such as by improving information security that protects and/or facilitates access to telecommunications tools and technology.

Submitted by:

Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed (California – National Committeeperson)

Parshan Khosravi (California – National Committeeperson)

Rachel Bracker (Women's Caucus Vice Chair, on behalf of Women's Caucus)

Action Taken:

Date: June 4, 2023

Effective Time Period: Ongoing

Resolution:

Subject: Democratic Party: Young Democrats of America (YDA): Civil Rights: Right to Counsel

Resolution Recognizing the Right to Counsel in Civil Proceedings

WHEREAS engraved in stone above the entrance to the United States Supreme Court reads “Equal Justice Under Law”;

WHEREAS the justice system in the United States depends on fair and equal access to the courts as a fundamental right in a democratic society;

WHEREAS the first line of the United States Constitution identifies “establish Justice” as a purpose of the Constitution;

WHEREAS civil proceedings often determine issues involving basic human needs, including shelter, custody of children, safety from abuse, health, and sustenance;

WHEREAS the American Bar Association, which is the largest voluntary association of legal professionals in the world, has long urged the Federal Government and State and territorial governments to provide legal counsel as a matter of right at public expense to low-income individuals in adversarial proceedings involving basic human needs, including shelter, sustenance, safety, health, and child custody, as determined by each jurisdiction;

WHEREAS individuals without lawyers face difficult and often insurmountable barriers to obtaining justice in the courts;

WHEREAS courts attempting to provide justice to individuals without lawyers often cannot obtain vital information necessary for making fully informed decisions on the merits;

WHEREAS the 2022 Justice Gap Report published by the federally funded Legal Services Corporation found that at least 74 percent of low-income households experience a civil legal problem, including problems regarding domestic violence, veterans’ benefits, disability access, evictions, housing conditions, and health care;

WHEREAS the 2022 Justice Gap Report found that low-income individuals in the United States received inadequate or no legal help for 92 percent of their civil legal problems;

WHEREAS millions of individuals in the United States cannot afford to hire a lawyer, including approximately 94,000,000 individuals with family incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines (as defined by the Department of Health and Human Services);

WHEREAS assistance programs support less than 1 civil legal aid attorney per 10,000 individuals with an income under 200 percent of the Federal poverty guidelines;

WHEREAS countless studies have shown that programs that provide attorneys to low-income individuals produce fairer outcomes, promote public confidence in the justice system, facilitate greater judicial efficiency, and save taxpayer dollars;

WHEREAS every State has enacted legislation to guarantee counsel for some types of civil proceedings, most commonly child welfare and mental health proceedings, but the reach of these laws is very limited; now, therefor, be it

RESOLVED, That the Young Democrats of America finds that the lack of counsel for low-income individuals in civil proceedings diminishes the justice system in the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to effectively and efficiently address the national crisis surrounding unsupported pro-se litigants, there must be a right to counsel in the civil justice system for cases involving basic human needs, including health, safety, family, shelter, or sustenance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America recognizes that the Federal Government shares the burden with, and should support, State and local efforts to guarantee the right to counsel in the civil justice system and reduce the justice gap by providing counsel in appropriate civil proceedings without cost for low-income individuals.

Submitted by:

Negeen Sadeghi-Movahed (California – National Committeeperson)

Action Taken:

Date: June 4, 2023

Effective Time Period: Ongoing

Resolution:

Subject: Democratic Party: Young Democrats of America (YDA): Civil Justice: Reparations

Resolution Endorsing The California Task Force To Study And Develop Reparation Proposals For African Americans And Its Recommendations

WHEREAS, California Assembly Bill 3121 (AB 3121) was enacted on September 30, 2020, and established the Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans (Task Force or Reparations Task Force). AB 3121 charges the California Department of Justice with providing administrative, technical, and legal assistance to the Task Force.

WHEREAS, The institution of slavery is inextricably woven into the establishment, history, and prosperity of the United States. Constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned from 1619 to 1865, slavery deprived more than four million Africans and their descendants of life, liberty, citizenship, cultural heritage, and economic opportunity.

WHEREAS, Following the abolition of slavery, government entities at the federal, state, and local levels continued to perpetuate, condone, and often profit from practices that brutalized African Americans and excluded them from meaningful participation in society. This legacy of slavery and racial discrimination has resulted in debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships that are uniquely experienced by African Americans.

WHEREAS, AB 3121 charged the Reparations Task Force with studying the institution of slavery and its lingering negative effects on living African Americans, including descendants of persons enslaved in the United States, and on society. Additionally, the Task Force will recommend appropriate remedies of compensation, rehabilitation, and restitution for African Americans, with special consideration for descendants of persons enslaved in the United States. By statute, the Task Force will issue a report to the Legislature by June 1, 2022, which will be available to the public.

WHEREAS, On June 1, 2022, the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans released its Interim Report providing an in-depth overview of the cumulative, cascading, and continuing harms inflicted on African Americans resulting from 246 years of enslavement, 90 years of Jim Crow, and decades more of systemic discrimination.

WHEREAS, On May 6, 2023, the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans released its final report detailing recommendations regarding calculations of losses to African American descendants of a chattel enslaved person, or

descendants of a free black person living in the United States prior to the end of the 19th century, and forms of compensation and restitution.¹

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Young Democrats of America **endorses the mission and overall efforts** of the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans, including the recommendations provided in its final report on May 6, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America authorizes our organization to be listed publicly as an endorsee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of America shall share our endorsement of the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans on our website, social media accounts, newsletter, and other such places where our supporters can learn about our position on this issue.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Young Democrats of California shall submit a copy of this resolution to every member of the California's Executive Branch, including Governor Newsom, as well as to the offices of the Senate President Pro Temp Toni Atkins and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon and call on their offices to fully and expeditiously enact and enforce the recommendations set forth by the California Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans.

Submitted by:

Parshan Khosravi (California Young Democrats - Delegate & National Committeeperson)

Action Taken:

Date: June 4, 2023

Effective Time Period: Ongoing

¹ <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/ab3121-agenda10-ch17-draft-05062023.pdf>

Whereas the Young Democrats of America, the Young Democrats of North Carolina, and the North Carolina Democratic Party lost a valued friend, mentor and colleague on May 28, 2023 with the passing of Conen Morgan;

Whereas Conen Morgan served with distinction as the President of the Young Democrats of North Carolina from 2009 to 2011, and served as a member of the Young Democrats of North Carolina Board of Trustees since 2021;

Whereas Conen Morgan guided and mentored countless young Democrats who came after him from across North Carolina and the country in recent years;

Whereas, outside of politics, Conen Morgan was an active participant and long-time volunteer in the NC Science Olympiad, a passion he called one of his "greatest loves in life," a brother of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and a devoted husband and family man, and;

Whereas his dedication and professionalism were and will continue to be sources of inspiration for those who knew him, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Young Democrats of America:

1. extends sincere and heartfelt condolences to the colleagues, friends and family of Conen Morgan, most especially his wife Reyna, and;
2. recognize the significant contributions of Conen Morgan over the course of his career and mourn his death.

RESOLUTION

Presented by: Aurelio Agelviz, President of the Young Democrats of Puerto Rico

TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR HR 2757: "PUERTO RICO STATUS ACT" FILED BEFORE THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

WHEREAS: On November 2020, 52.52% of Puerto Rico voters voted in favor of the island's admission as a state of the United States.

WHEREAS: In light of the result, the United States Congress addressed the issue of Puerto Rico's political status and approved HR 8393 to convene a federally-backed status plebiscite, with decolonization options that would be self-executing for Puerto Rico.

WHEREAS: Despite being approved in Congress, HR 8393 did not receive consideration in the Senate at the end of the session.

WHEREAS: On April 2023, Democratic Congressman Raúl Grijalva, Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico Jenniffer González, and other congressmembers filed HR 2757, known as the "Puerto Rico Status Act."

WHEREAS: Consistent with HR 8393, HR 2757 contemplates the convening of a status plebiscite with clearly defined and self-executing decolonization options, and a commitment from Congress to abide by the results.

WHEREAS: Having successfully approved HR 8393 in the past, it becomes imperative to support the HR 2757 bill to promote the decolonization of Puerto Rico and achieve the final resolution of this century-old dilemma that afflicts the 3.1 million US citizens currently living on the island.

WHEREAS: The people of Puerto Rico deserve self-determination on the issue of status. YDA supports statehood for Puerto Rico, HR2757 is the best opportunity for the people of Puerto Rico to formally express that desire, and for Congress to abide by that result.

WHEREAS: We also believe Puerto Rico should be treated equally with respect to federal programs, including Medicaid, SNAP, and the Child Tax Credit.

THEREFORE: Resolved by the YDA Assembly:

Section One: The Young Democrats of America support HR 2757 The Puerto Rico Status Act filed before the United States Congress in its 118th Legislative Session.

Section Two: This Resolution shall take effect immediately after its approval.