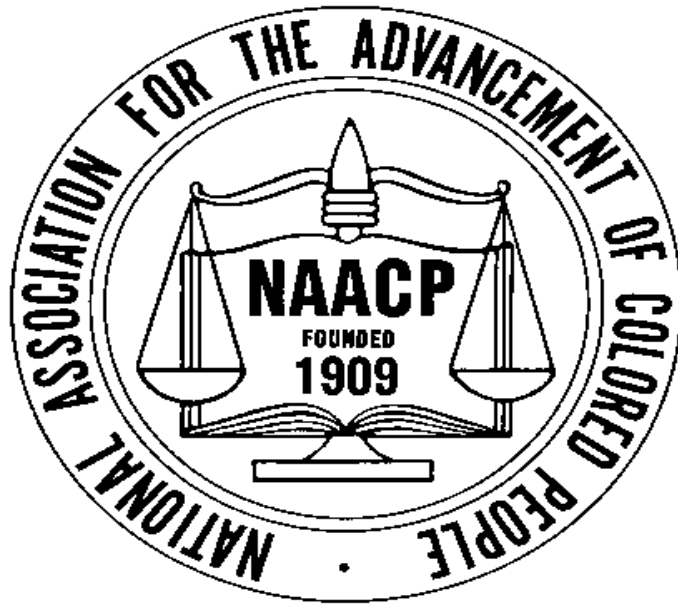


NAACP[®] **RESOLUTIONS**

2023

**SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE X, SECTION 2 OF
THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NAACP**



RESOLUTIONS

**RATIFICATION BY THE NATIONAL BOARD
OF DIRECTORS AT ITS OCTOBER 2023
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

2023

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NAACP

2023

ARTICLE IX, SECTION 1. (PURPOSE OF THE CONVENTION)

1. *(Purpose of the Convention)*

The Annual Convention of the Association shall establish policies and programs of action for the ensuing year. All actions of the Convention on questions of policy and programs, which are not contrary to this Constitution, shall be binding on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, the Officers and all Units, except as hereinafter provided. No resolution for change of policy or program of action shall be in order unless it shall have been favorably voted upon at a regular legislative meeting of a Unit in good standing, or has been submitted by the President and CEO. The resolutions for policy or program change must be certified by the President and the Secretary of the Unit, and received by the President and CEO in the National Office by June 1st, annually. The Convention shall act on all such proposed program or policy changes during its Legislative Sessions.



All resolutions contained in this packet were reviewed by the 114th Convention of the NAACP, held July 31, 2023 at its Legislative Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. These resolutions were ratified by the National Board of Directors on October 21, 2023 and are now the Official Policy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

NAACP
RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE RESOLUTIONS
COMMITTEE
2023

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CIVIL RIGHTS

1. *LGBTQ+ Resolution*

WHEREAS, On August 25, 2017, NAACP President and CEO Derrick Johnson stated, "We pledge today to stand with our transgender brothers and sisters as we continue to fight any efforts to codify discrimination into law;" and

WHEREAS, The NAACP therefore passed a Resolution at said Convention in which it determined that the NAACP shall encourage the promotion of diversity and sensitivity trainings into all NAACP trainings and programs to encourage the inclusion of members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community as active civil rights activists and fighters within the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, Everyone is aware of the discrimination that people belonging to the LGBTQ+ community and people of color face. However, many people don't realize the compounded life challenges a person faces when they are part of both communities; and

WHEREAS, A major challenge of being both LGBTQ+ and a person of color is being subjected to compounding systems of oppression such as homophobia, biphobia, racism, and transphobia. It is more complex than the usual forms of discrimination because either can happen within their own community, rather than only being discriminated against by other groups; and

WHEREAS, Youth who are LGBTQ+ and Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) face many additional challenges over youth who are only LGBTQ+ or BIPOC. They are statistically less likely to be out to their families, more likely to have low self-esteem, more likely to be depressed, and have an elevated HIV risk, and the stress of being a multiple minority continues through adulthood, and LGBTQ+ people of color may find less community strength than their White counterparts; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP has applauded Karine Jean-Pierre's recent historic appointment as the White House Press Secretary, recognizing that she has shattered yet another glass ceiling and become the first Black woman and LGBTQ+ person to serve in that role; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP has an obligation to protect, defend and support the rights of all people of color, including members of the LGBTQ+ community.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the 2019 resolution is reaffirmed.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall openly and forcefully support the LGBTQ+ community, participate in Pride events, fight discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community and take affirmative steps to welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community as full and active members of its units.

2. Reclaiming the Word “Woke” as Part of African American Culture

WHEREAS, Black history is a critical aspect of American history and has shaped American culture, including the evolution of language; and

WHEREAS, The words “Wake Up” and “Woke” have served as a call to action as conveyed by social activist Marcus Garvey who stated, “Wake up Ethiopia! Wake up Africa”, and the Negro Mine Workers who in 1940 issued the statement, “We were asleep. But we will stay woke from now on,” in advocating against discriminatory pay; and

WHEREAS, The term “Woke” was first highlighted in the 1962 essay, “If You’re Woke, You Dig It”, featured in the “New York Times” by Harlem-based writer William Melvin Kelley who documented the cultural appropriation and distortion of language, resulting in certain idioms being abandoned by their original Black creators; and

WHEREAS, The term “Woke” has been similarly misused, as traditionally and white-focused media have reframed “Woke” as trendy new slang, eroding its cultural connection and separating the term from its historical grounding in social justice; and

WHEREAS, Six decades later, anti-Black racists have engaged in a similar exercise of cultural appropriation to weaponized and misdefine the term “Woke”, as evidenced by the “Stop W.O.K.E. Act”, specifically targeting the teaching of American history and Black educators; and

WHEREAS, Black educators are more likely to teach subjects that incorporate an inclusive view of history, and legislation like the “Stop W.O.K.E. Act” threatens the free speech and livelihood

of teachers, and the quality of education received by all students, most recently students in Florida.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP affirms the term “Woke” and its historical connection to Black history, Black liberation movements, and social justice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP through its units encourages a historically accurate and correct use of the term “Woke” when its misuse is identified.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP condemns cultural appropriation, misuse of Black idioms, and specific efforts by anti-Black racists to distort and redefine the specific term “Woke.”

COMMEMORATIVE/MEMORIAL

1. *Designation of the Springfield 1908 Race Riot National Monument*

WHEREAS, In 1908 in Springfield, Illinois, a racist mob lynched two Black men, attacked Black people, and burned Black homes and businesses, following rumors that a Black man raped a white woman; and

WHEREAS, The 1908 race riot furthered Ida B. Wells' crusade against lynching and led to the founding of the NAACP in 1909; and

WHEREAS, No National Park Unit tells the 1908 Springfield story of mass racial violence; and

WHEREAS, The National Park Service found that Springfield overwhelmingly supports the designation of a National Monument, one that would allow the National Park Service to tell these stories to current and future generations and honor the victims, survivors, and descendants through a Memorial.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP requests that President Biden proclaim and designate the area, via the Antiquities Act or Presidential Proclamation, for a national monument devoted to the history of the Springfield, Illinois 1908 Race Riot – a National Monument under the authority of the National Park Service.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. *Addressing the Need for Gun Control*

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) seeks to end the vast racial disparities and consequences of gun violence and increase effective gun control policies; and

WHEREAS, The American Public Health Association deems gun violence as a leading cause of premature death in the U.S., e.g., guns kill more than 38,000 people and cause nearly 85,000 injuries each year. The Gifford Center determines that Black men make up 52% of all gun homicide victims in the U.S. despite being 6% of the population; and

WHEREAS, According to an ABC News report, data from the Gun Violence Archive shows that the United States has faced at least 202 mass shootings in 2023 as of the date of the drafting of this Resolution, and there have been more mass shootings than days in 2023; and

WHEREAS, An article published by The Guardian on April 19, 2023 entitled, “Stand your ground’: the US laws linked to rising deaths and racist violence,” provides that a study last year found “stand your ground” laws were linked to an 8% to 11% increase in homicide rates, or roughly 700 additional deaths each year, and research on “stand your ground” laws has found huge racial disparities, with white Americans much more likely to be successful with self-defense claims, particularly when they kill Black people; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP reaffirms its previous resolutions, Reaffirmation of Gun Control Resolutions of 2013, 2017, and 2018, Reaffirming the Need to Make Communities Smart and Safe Through Violence Reduction (2022), Prohibition of or Ban of the Sale of Any New Assault

Weapons National Firearms Act (NFA) to Include “Assault Weapons” (2022), Gun Control in the Wake of the Parkland High School Massacre (2018), NAACP Continues to Support Laws to Prevent Gun Violence and Increase Gun Safety Nationwide (2018), Prohibition of or Ban of the Sale of Any New Assault Weapons National Firearms Act (NFA) to Include “Assault Weapons” (2013).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP work for the adoption by Congress a new ban on the purchase, ownership, and possession of all assault style weapons modeled after military grade firearms, military-style assault weapons, high capacity magazine exceeding 11 rounds or weapons that operate similarly, including the ban on switches, bump stocks and materials used to modify or otherwise convert semi-automatic weapons into automatic weapons that operate similarly thereafter, and further reaffirm the ban of all automatic weapons, (crime bill of 1994) thereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP remains firmly committed to, and will continue its advocacy for, conducting universal background checks to include the alerting and reporting of anyone either convicted or adjudicated of domestic violence or mental health issues that would impact a person’s use of firearms, enforcing minimum waiting periods, enacting and enforcing gun dealer regulations, support of Community Lead Intervention Programs, and enacting and enforcing legislation and policies that require law enforcement agencies to keep records of firearm sales for the purpose of disqualifying persons from purchasing guns.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate with National and State Representatives to repeal all state "stand your ground" laws.

2. *Enforce Policies and Practices for Canine Units*

WHEREAS, From the beginning of slavery in America, canines were used to attack and intimidate Indigenous populations and to prevent enslaved people—mostly Black Africans—from fleeing; and

WHEREAS, An article by Trone Dowd written in 2022, “The Violent, Racist History of K-9 Units,” states some Jim Crow-era sheriffs in smaller southern U.S. towns openly talked about using dogs to further their racist goals in the late 19th century. Sheriffs even held public demonstrations showing how effective dogs can be—and used Black people as bait; and

WHEREAS, Today, dog bites are still a problem with canine units. A 2019 journal published by the National Library of Medicine states that 1.1% of emergency department visits due to dog bites involve bites by dogs in canine units. The practice is known as “search and bite” versus “search and bark,” which causes dogs to bite; and

WHEREAS, For many bite victims, there's little accountability or compensation. Federal civil rights laws don't typically cover innocent bystanders, and criminal suspects can't bring federal claims if they plead guilty or are convicted of a crime related to the biting incident.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP demands the Department of Justice require all canine units abide by the "Guidance for Policies and Practices for Patrol Canines" published in 2020 by the Police Executive Research Forum, and emphasizing the importance of establishing a canine unit with strict policies and practices.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP demands that the Department of Justice set standards in canine police practices to use "search and bark" versus "search and bite" and set standards of how canine units are utilized, removing canine units for routine traffic stops, civilian encounters, and non-violent crimes.

3. *Interpersonal Violence*

WHEREAS, The World Health Organization defines *Interpersonal Violence* as the intentional use of physical force or power against other persons by an individual or small group of individuals, use of such force or power may be physical, sexual, or psychological (also called emotional violence), and may involve deprivation and neglect; and

WHEREAS, *Community violence* occurs among individuals who are not related by family ties but who may know each other, including youth violence, bullying, assault, rape or sexual assault by acquaintances or strangers, and violence that occurs in institutional settings such as schools, workplaces, and prisons; and

WHEREAS, Black homicide rates are seven to eight times those of whites, although Black Americans have a rate of poverty only four to five times that of whites; and

WHEREAS, Gun violence has a disproportionate impact on racial and ethnic minorities and is highly concentrated in a relatively small number of neighborhoods that have historically been under-resourced and racially segregated; and

WHEREAS, Gun violence often results from the intersection of political and social determinants such as weak gun laws and a proliferation of weapons; systemic racial inequities, including unequal access to jobs and economic opportunity; the absence of safe housing, inadequate educational systems and employment opportunities; decades-long disinvestment in public

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infrastructure; and the absence of healthcare and mental health services in communities of color most affected by gun violence; and

WHEREAS, The earliest modern references to “Black-on-Black crime” came from Black media, notably “Ebony” magazine in 1979, the first commercially successful Black-owned magazine focusing on the African-American community that featured an article about “Black-on-Black crime”, providing: "Although the Black community is not responsible for the external conditions that systematically create breeding grounds for crime, the community has the responsibility of doing what it can to attack the problem from within"; and

WHEREAS, White supremacists frequently engage in disinformation campaigns to manipulate crime statistics in order to claim that nonwhite minorities, particularly Black Americans, are far more crime-prone and the source of most violent crime against whites.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP in partnership with Brookings and UC Berkley Othering and Belonging Institute and others will convene a collaborative think tank on the causes of community and interpersonal violence within Black communities and develop targeted solutions to prevent and interrupt community and interpersonal violence and change the negative narrative surrounding the terminology “Black on Black crime” to emphasize the social and political determinants that create conditions in which community and interpersonal violence is present.

4. *Public Defender Caseloads and Ineffective Assistance Counsel Claims*

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) seeks to protect the right of all individuals to receive effective assistance of counsel when accused of a crime; and

WHEREAS, The Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution afford criminal defendants the right to the assistance of counsel. Accordingly, states must provide counsel to criminal defendants who cannot afford to pay private attorneys. Moreover, the holding in *Argersinger v Hamlin* expanded the right to assistance of counsel to include cases where lesser offenses are charged and the defendant may be sentenced to imprisonment; and

WHEREAS, The Supreme Court of the United States has qualified the right to the assistance of counsel as the right to effective assistance of counsel. Thus, representation that falls below an objective standard of reasonableness under prevailing professional norms and is prejudicial to a defendant constitutes a violation of the Sixth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Public defense systems across the United States suffer from underfunding and excessive caseloads. As of 2012, almost every state had persistently underfunded public defenders who represented indigent defendants. Inadequate funding: (1) deprives public defenders of access to resources like expert witnesses and investigative and litigation support services; and (2) limits the number of public defenders who can be hired and maintained; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic further limited the number of public defenders who could be hired and maintained. For example, post-pandemic studies indicate that Oregon has roughly 31% of the public defenders it needs to adequately meet the demand for legal aid and that New Mexico needs 67% more public defenders to represent defendants effectively. Similar findings were made in Colorado, Indiana, Louisiana, Missouri, and Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, Public defenders nationwide cite low pay and severe workload — exacerbated by the COVID-19 court backlog — as their top reasons for resigning. For example, by June 2022, New York City experienced a mass departure of public defenders from five leading agencies that serve the city’s indigent population, claiming that low pay and severe workload put them on an uneven footing with the prosecutors they faced. The post-COVID-19 scarcity of public defenders undermines the practical guarantees of the Sixth Amendment, puts additional strain on the remaining lawyers, and further contributes to excessive caseloads; and

WHEREAS, Excessive caseloads constitute a constructive denial of the right to counsel. National studies indicate that lawyers who defend the indigent encounter conflicts of interest because they must “limit their efforts on behalf of one or more clients in order to devote themselves to the most urgent needs of other clients”; and

WHEREAS, Although some court rules may provide standards for governing caseloads, these standards are often disregarded with no real consequences resulting from a violation. Furthermore, an indigent defendant’s claim of ineffective assistance of counsel based solely on systemic weaknesses would not warrant relief under the “professional norms standard”; and

WHEREAS, Racial and ethnic minorities suffer disproportionately because they are accused of crimes at an excessive rate due to the language barriers and are among those who rely heavily on public defenders. In fact, at last count, of African Americans and Latinos in state prisons relied on public defenders or assigned counsel compared to White American inmates. Similarly, in the federal system, African Americans were more likely to have public defenders than White Americans.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2016 resolution to support the right to effective assistance of counsel.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support and encourage vetted and conflict-free private attorneys to represent indigent defendants in jurisdictions where public defenders carry excessive caseloads.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will encourage its units to support policy changes that implement specific caseload standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for salary increases to be in pay parity and pay equity with that of the prosecuting attorney and regardless of whether that advocacy is required at the state and local level, and improved public service loan forgiveness programs to decrease the turnover rates of public defenders, and core staff.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for greater funding at the federal and state levels to support the public defender system and conflict counsel to eliminate untenable caseloads and alleviate other systemic issues resulting in ineffective assistance of counsel.

5. *The Disciplining of Black Police Officers*

WHEREAS, The presence of Black police officers is crucial to our communities and police services; and

WHEREAS, Disproportionate discipline leads to fewer Black law enforcement officers in public, in the police agencies, and leadership positions; and

WHEREAS, Studies have concluded when the demographics of a law enforcement agency reflects the community, crime is reduced, which impacts the level of negative interactions between the public and the police; and

WHEREAS, A 2020 study concluded that Black police officers in the Oakland Police Department are disciplined disproportionately; and

WHEREAS, A recent study provides that the United States employs over 3,895 Police Chiefs, with less than 10 percent being Black; and

WHEREAS, A recent study provides that the United States elects 3,066 Sheriffs, with 5% being Black; and

WHEREAS, Police Chiefs and Sheriffs are responsible for hiring, discipline, training, and the overall culture of municipal policing; and

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WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of Black Americans and the country that we investigate the internal biases against our Black police officers; and

WHEREAS, Our organizational presence on this matter profoundly impacts the internal police culture, which has long-lasting effects on the Black community at large.

WHEREAS, the NAACP will recuse support to any Black officer that commits undue harm to the Black community.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP demands that the Department of Justice and the Bureau of Statistics conduct investigations and collect data regarding these patterns and practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP demands that local, state, and federal government track and be completely transparent with the data of the complaints from Black officers and the outcome of their complaints.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP demands that local, state, and federal government track and be transparent with the data of Black officers claiming to be victims of retaliation.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP urges its units to implement a plan of action to address the internal police culture of intentional and implicit bias against Black officers.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. *Provide Lending, Grant, and Capital Options to Black Farmers*

WHEREAS, According to Data for Progress, referenced in an article written by NPR in 2023, over the course of 100 years, the amount of Black-owned farmland dropped by 90% due to higher rates of loan and credit denials, lack of legal and industry support and "outright acts of violence and intimidation;" and

WHEREAS, As part of the American Rescue Plan, the early 2020 pandemic relief bill, lawmakers approved \$5 billion toward debt relief and cancellation for farmers of color. But the program was swiftly blocked by approximately 12 lawsuits; and

WHEREAS, Black farmers have reported and alleged that they have been denied access to assistance and inclusion due to racial discrimination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) will work with Black farmers to obtain appropriated funds from Congress in fiscal year 2024 to compensate them for discriminatory practices by the Department of Agriculture.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP demands that the U.S. Treasury and the U.S. Department of Agriculture make readily available to Black farmers information, applications, and the process on how to access capital through grant and loan programs.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP demands that Community Development Financial Institutions and Minority Depository Institutions provide a toolkit for Black farmers on how to access capital and other opportunities.

2. Equity in the Operation and Application of the Tax Code and U.S Funding Distribution

WHEREAS, From 2010 to 2019, an analysis of Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”) data from Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (“TRAC”) at Syracuse University found that households earning less than \$25,000 annually were five times as likely to be audited by the IRS; and

WHEREAS, The General Accountability Office (“GAO”) found in 2022 that years of budget cuts have resulted in IRS agents focusing attention on collecting revenue through the use of “correspondence audits” in which the agency requests additional information from U.S. taxpayers through the use of algorithm-generated correspondence; and

WHEREAS, Correspondence audits result in fundamental unfairness in the collection of taxes by requiring lower income taxpayers to substantiate the anti-poverty earned income tax credit and income derived from other anti-poverty programs; and

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WHEREAS, The IRS has falsely assumed that correspondence audits do not place undue burden on lower income households due to the complex issues involved with substantiating use of anti-poverty programs; and

WHEREAS, We have seen a once in a generation investment of federal funding into the U.S economy; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. President has instructed that the funding be distributed with an “Equity Lens” meaning that those who need the most, receive the most; and

WHEREAS, IRS ignorance of the complex needs and administrative burden faced by lower income households regularly results in the IRS disallowing use of anti-poverty tax credits and issuing a Notice of Deficiency; and

WHEREAS, Notices of Deficiency and tax delinquencies harm the financial lives of lower income taxpayers, cause indebtedness, lower credit scores, increase economic harm, and widen the racial wealth gap, opposite the intended outcome of anti-poverty programs; and

WHEREAS, The National Taxpayer Advocate has noted this fundamental unfairness in the application of tax practice, and has asserted that the IRS should shift its practices to focus greater attention on increasing audit rates for higher income taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, The IRS received an \$80 billion increase in funding for 2022-2031 through the Inflation Reduction Act that the Congressional Budget Office projects to bring in \$204 Billion in revenue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that the IRS ensure that revenue enhancements intended to improve IRS capacity do not increase financial harm to lower income taxpayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands an accounting of: (1) how the equity lens is applied; (2) where the funding is going; and (3) to whom it is going. We further demand that the oversight documentation be submitted to the NAACP and its Economic Justice Department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that the IRS improve equity and fairness by creating and publishing a public plan to ensure that taxpayers with reportable

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income over \$400,000 from all sources, and corporations are not audited at lower rates than taxpayers with reportable income of \$25,000 or below.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands an immediate end to “correspondence audits” of any households with reportable income at or below \$25,000, and that any lower income household experiencing an audit be provided assistance by the IRS or other contracted personnel trained in financial literacy counseling and tax compliance issues faced by lower income taxpayers.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will encourage Congress to exercise its oversight function to ensure that the IRS develop and implement strategies to improve equity in tax collection and provide an annual public report on this policy and its application to support tax fairness and compliance among all taxpayers.

3. *Accountability of Equity Practices in the Financial Sector*

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is committed to the pursuit of social justice, equity, and the elimination of racial disparities in all areas of society, including the financial sector; and

WHEREAS, A 2020 study conducted by Hegerty states that racial discrimination and various types of market failure have led to banking and credit deserts in underserved urban and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, A 2020 study conducted by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) reports that unbanked and underbanked rates were higher among lower-income households, less-educated households, Black households, Latino or Hispanic households, American Indian or Alaska Native households, immigrant and migrant households, working-age disabled households, and households with unstable incomes; and

WHEREAS, The FDIC is responsible for federal regulations about racial equity, including the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) of 1977 and the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) of 1975, addressing racial discrimination in banking.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will demand that the FDIC hold financial institutions accountable for violating regulatory equity requirements.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP will survey majority Black and high poverty jurisdictions to identify the number of banks and traditional credit institutions within those jurisdictions or with poverty rates in excess of 50%.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP will challenge federally chartered banks to have local branches within majority Black jurisdictions with poverty rates in excess of 50%.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP will work with the U.S. Treasury, FDIC, Inclusive, the African-American Alliance on MDI (minority depository institutions), Opportunity Finance Network, and others to foster the growth of CDFI (community development financial institutions) and MDI and other initiatives that prioritize investments in low-income census tracts, underserved and underbanked communities, Black and Brown communities, and historically redlined, and racially oppressed communities.

4. *Impact of Inflation on Black Americans*

WHEREAS, The U.S. Inflation Rate is defined as the percentage in which a chosen basket of goods and services purchased in the U.S. increases in price over a year; and

WHEREAS, Over the last year, we have seen inflation rates soar. U.S. Inflation Rate is at 4.98%, compared to 6.04% last month and 8.54% last year. This is higher than the long-term average rate of 3.28%; and

WHEREAS, High inflation rates for everyday necessities like shelter and food have risen sharply. Shelter has increased by 30% and food prices have increased by 8.5% making it especially challenging for the majority of individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, Black adults report facing more serious issues across several areas compared to white Americans—notably, they are more likely than whites to report not having enough emergency savings to cover at least one month of their expenses (58% to 36%) and having serious problems affording food (32% vs. 21%); and

WHEREAS, It has been noted by the Federal Reserve that the typical Black family has \$1,500 in liquid savings whereas the typical white family has more than five times that amount. The typical Black family also does not have enough savings to avoid costly borrowing or missed payments when unexpected events arise, which makes them especially vulnerable to inflation volatility; and

WHEREAS, The increase in interest rates to stabilize inflation makes it harder for first-time homebuyers to purchase a home, which deprives families from having the ability to build generational wealth; and

WHEREAS, This inflationary outbreak has imposed severe financial hardships for individuals and families. As interest rates and prices rise and income remains stagnant this all leads to extreme financial hardship.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will engage with the Federal Reserve with respect to equity and the impact of inflation in the Black community to ensure that careful consideration is taken when increasing interest rates as they impact harshly upon low-to-medium income households. Also, to advocate for policies with the Federal Reserve to lessen inflationary pressures in the economy that contribute to higher inflation rates.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP will work alongside financial institutions to engage consumers with savings-based solutions to help prepare for financial emergencies like contending with higher than average inflation rates.

5. *Ban Misleading Advertising in Lotteries and Ensuring Equitable Distribution of Lottery Proceeds Through Disclosure and Transparency*

WHEREAS, In 1964, the State of New Hampshire introduced lotteries as a way to increase revenue without raising taxes. Today, all but five U.S. states operate lotteries, with some states' lottery revenue even exceeding that of corporate taxes. In fact, in 2021, Americans spent about \$105 billion on lottery tickets, making the lottery the most popular form of gambling in the United States; and

WHEREAS, State lotteries are one of the most neglected examples of systematic racism in the United States. Those who play the lottery most frequently are disproportionately Black people, people of lower incomes, or high school dropouts, with the top ten percent of players accounting for two-thirds of total lottery sales. On average, Black people spend five times as much money on lotteries as White people do; and

WHEREAS, National studies have shown that lottery outlets are often heavily concentrated in neighborhoods with large populations of racial minorities who yearn for an alternate mechanism for social mobility and face a heightened risk of developing gambling addictions; and

WHEREAS, States use predatory and deceptive marketing tactics to influence poor and otherwise vulnerable people, the majority of whom are Black and Hispanic. One such tactic is using language and cultural imagery to appeal to a particular group. For example, the Washington, D.C. Lottery was recently condemned for running an ad that used an image of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. and encouraged players to “honor his dream” by purchasing lottery tickets; and

WHEREAS, Ethnically ambiguous advertisements can be harmful to economically vulnerable people. Ads like “Fastest Way to a Million Dollars” encourage people to “play often, spend more, and overlook the long odds of winning.” While it is true, for example, that consumers lose about 35 cents on every dollar spent playing lotteries, state lotteries are not required to disclose this because the lotteries are exempt, as state agencies, from regulations of the Federal Trade Commission that prohibit deceptive and misleading advertising; and

WHEREAS, States use the proceeds from lottery ticket sales to further disadvantage minority communities. The way state governments spend their share of lottery proceeds varies by state. But, it is typical for states to donate a certain percentage of ticket-sales revenue to specific state causes and, with the most common one being education.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support and encourage legislation that bans misleading and predatory advertising for state lottery sales; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the equitable distribution of lottery proceeds, and NAACP units are encouraged to support legislation that requires states to disclose in detail how lottery proceeds are distributed and to ensure that the distribution are equitable.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for states to post the information on how proceeds are used by the state lottery on gambling hotlines nationwide state websites so that the information is easy to locate.

EDUCATION

1. *In Support of Honesty, Freedom to Learn, and Anti-Racism in Education*

WHEREAS, The NAACP believes that education is a fundamental right of all people and that access to quality education is necessary for a just and equitable society and that all persons residing in this country have a right to have access to their history and the Civil Rights Act of 1965 outlawed discrimination based on race, ethnic background or nationality, and gender or gender identity; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. educational system has maintained both oppressive and suppressive education practices through policies that restrict instruction related to accurate historical events and historical truth telling at large in schools; and

WHEREAS, Such legislative censorship specifically serves as an indisputable attack on racial reckoning, LGBTQ+ rights, and other forms of liberation before and during the pandemic and propagandizes theory and practice, including, but not limited to, Critical Race Theory (CRT), the 1619 Project, and fundamental language used to describe diverse students, and

WHEREAS, Attempts to pass bills outlawing the teaching of CRT in kindergarten through twelfth grade schools is a political wedge issue, intended to mobilize around xenophobia. In reality, CRT is not currently being taught in kindergarten through twelfth grade education, making anti-CRT legislation without merit or substance. Instead of wasting time and energy on frivolous political posturing, lawmakers should pass laws that work to dismantle systemic racism in education and elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP opposes the legislation proposed in more than 45 states that suppresses compassionate, rigorous, and truthful teaching practices in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade schools and postsecondary institutions, and believes that all students have the right to learn and grow in an environment that encourages critical thinking and the development of their own views and voice; and

WHEREAS, Anti-CRT legislation and policies prohibit teachers, schools, school districts, and other state and/or local government entities from enacting curricula or professional development programs related to topics of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) and from using selected books and other course materials containing racially diverse and inclusive perspectives; and

WHEREAS, Although CRT as it was conceived is not taught in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade and the term 'CRT' has been coopted by those bent on preventing the accurate teaching of American history, specifically the roles that Black Americans and people of color, and other minorities, played in that history; and

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WHEREAS, The NAACP supports education that acknowledges collective pasts, sparks curiosity and critical thinking, and prepares all students for the multicultural present and future, by encouraging a curriculum that reflects a true history of the nation and world, centers diverse histories, cultures, families, and communities, and allows students to see themselves reflected in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP stands with educators who teach an inclusive curriculum covering US history while encouraging students to develop their own views and voice, and encourages all educators to review their curriculum to ensure it reflects the diversity of our nation and world; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP rejects the idea that educational equity is a zero-sum proposition, in which some students may lose out on opportunities to help other students succeed, and believes in the value of culturally responsive education that allows students to understand the world and value their cultural identity; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP supports safe schools free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, etc., providing all students with a world-class education, designed to support student well-being, growth, and development; and

WHEREAS, Persons duly living in the United States have a right to discuss race and equity issues in local governments, schools, libraries, and public events without interference; local and national government should not have the power to limit the books in libraries for discussion or review in schools or other venues; and schools and libraries should be allowed to teach the history of race relations and engage in discussion on these topics without interference.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2022 resolution, Anti-Racism in K-12 Education, opposes censorship legislation and policies, including but not limited to, legislation and policies that falsely purport to be anti-CRT that ultimately decreases knowledge and understanding of culturally diverse groups for students through developmentally appropriate but comprehensive instruction; prohibits educators from using quality instructional approaches that prepare students for further learning and life; restricts professional development related to topics of diversity in any educational or other municipal space; or stops DEI offices from fulfilling their legal and ethical duties in service to students, families, and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP calls on policymakers, educators, and administrators to prioritize anti-racist education practices, including teaching about the contributions of communities of color, the impact of racism, and bias, and the necessity for ongoing education and training of staff to support these efforts.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for federal, state, and local/school board efforts that oppose censorship legislation and policies, including but not limited to, legislation and policies that falsely purport to be anti-CRT, that suppress compassionate, rigorous, and truthful teaching in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade schools and institutions of higher education and/or through the work of DEI offices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP affirms its commitment to continue to work towards eliminating the injustices which have historically plagued education and impeded the growth and success of communities of color.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall convey this Resolution to federal, state, and local legislators and school boards, the United States Secretary of Education, and State Heads or Commissioners of Education.

2. Supporting Family Engagement, Advocacy, and Empowerment

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic and the aftermath of the pandemic has spotlighted the persistent inequities for Black children and youth in the education system to a heightened degree; and

WHEREAS, Black students are disproportionately impacted by inequitable systemic issues in education such as teacher shortages, zero tolerance discipline practices, misrepresentation in special education categories, exclusion of parents and guardians in decision making processes, and lack of access to college and career opportunities to name a few; and

WHEREAS, To change the educational landscape for Black children and youth, Black parents and guardians must be equitably included in all aspects of their children's educational experiences including curriculum, legal, and transition processes and made aware of all activities impacting their children.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2008 resolution, *Strengthening the African American Family*.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will create necessary tools and services needed to promote engagement, advocacy, and empowerment, including, but not limited to, model programs, parent brochures, local research, necessary convening, guides and/or toolkits to equip parents with the tools to eradicate the contributing factors to inequitable educational experiences and outcomes for Black students.

3. *Historical Recognition Fisk University Women's Gymnastics Team*

WHEREAS, Fisk University, founded in 1866 and located in Nashville, Tennessee, is one of the oldest Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the nation; and

WHEREAS, The University provides students with the holistic, 21st century education they need to lead successful, significant lives; and

WHEREAS, Fisk teaches its students to be conscious of societal trends and impacts, to ensure they courageously advocate for themselves and the communities of which they are a part; and

WHEREAS, For over 150 years, Fisk has challenged students to shatter ceilings, be aspirational thinkers, make a difference, and create generational change; and

WHEREAS, Fisk University creates environments that enhance diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in both academic and extracurricular activities covering a broad range of interests; and

WHEREAS, Fisk is intentional in providing creative and innovative extracurricular activities, for its students, including in the areas of music, STEM, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, The Fisk University Women's Gymnastics Team, the first HBCU Intercollegiate Artistic Gymnastics Team, was created in the summer of 2022 and began competing within the NCAA in January 2023; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Fisk University Women's Gymnastics Team exemplify excellence in their sport and their academics as outstanding student athletes; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Fisk University Women's Gymnastics Team, is making history as the first HBCU team to compete at the NCAA level; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Fisk University Women's Gymnastics Team, have proved their competency against more established teams; and

WHEREAS, The members of the Fisk University Women's Gymnastics Team, are demonstrating athletic excellence, providing inspiration to aspiring gymnasts across generations and fostering a vision of greater diversity and inclusion within the college level sport of gymnastics.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP recognizes and applauds this historic accomplishment of gymnasts and honors them for this historical first, and their past/future accomplishments as African-American women.

4. *In Support of Debt-Free College*

WHEREAS, the cost of college tuition has skyrocketed in recent years, making higher education inaccessible for many students and leaving those who do attend with an enormous burden of debt; and

WHEREAS, the current student loan debt crisis is crippling individuals and families across the United States, with a total of \$1.7 trillion in outstanding student loan debt; and

WHEREAS, student debt disproportionately affects marginalized communities and exacerbates existing economic inequalities; and

WHEREAS, a college education is increasingly necessary to obtain employment that provides a livable wage and financial stability; and

WHEREAS, access to affordable higher education is essential for the United States to remain competitive in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, several states and cities have already implemented debt-free college solutions, demonstrating that it is a viable and effective policy solution; and

WHEREAS, Congress has a responsibility to promote the general welfare of its citizens and to ensure equal access to education; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for Congress to prioritize the implementation of debt-free college solutions, such as tuition-free public colleges and universities, increased financial aid and support for low-income students, and the reduction of government student loan rates as well as origination fees or elimination of student loan debt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for Congress to work to ensure that these solutions are equitable, accessible, and inclusive, with a particular focus on addressing historical and systemic barriers to education for marginalized communities including increasing the federal funding for students attending community college.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for Congress to prioritize funding for higher education and invest in the future of our country by providing every American with the opportunity to receive a quality college education, without the burden of crushing debt.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports pathways to debt-free college education as a basic right for all. Congress must take action to ensure that every American has the opportunity to pursue their dreams and achieve their full potential without being held back by the burden of student loan debt.

5. Connection Between Residential and School Segregation

WHEREAS, There is a dire need for a better understanding of the relationship between residential and school segregation and a deep need to put an end to the disproportionate effects of such segregation on Black communities and other communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Housing and education in the United States have long been inextricably linked with the progress or regress of residential and school segregation being sequentially related throughout history; and

WHEREAS, Segregationist school practices endured for years before the Supreme Court unanimously found state-sanctioned school segregation to be unconstitutional in the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education Topeka* in 1954; and

WHEREAS, Likewise, in 1968, racially exclusive deeds and discriminatory zoning, among other practices, were supposedly outlawed when Congress passed the Fair Housing Act although the Act was criticized as insufficient because, by the time it was passed, homes were no longer as affordable as they were when White Americans first bought into exclusive suburbs and gained the equity and wealth that followed; and

WHEREAS, Widespread residential and school segregation have continued despite the *Brown* decision and the Fair Housing Act through massive resistance efforts at the state and federal levels, including, but not limited to, the Southern Manifesto, and segregationist advocacy groups; and

WHEREAS, Today many schools and neighborhoods remain “stubbornly segregated along racial and ethnic lines” with more than 80% of large metropolitan areas in the United States being more segregated in 2019 than in 1990 and roughly 18.5 million kindergarten through twelfth grade public school students being enrolled in predominately (75% or more) same-race or same-ethnicity schools, with 14% of students attending schools where 90% of the student population was of a single race or ethnicity between 2020-2021; and

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WHEREAS, Residential segregation directs and substantially reflects how schools are financed and resourced with local and state revenues that fund each school often tied to the residential property value in each school's district; and

WHEREAS, The higher the school's property value, the better resources the school receives, with studies showing that the United States spends \$293 less per year per-student on schools with a higher percentage of non-white students and that an increase of 10% in non-white students in schools is associated with a decrease in spending of \$75 per student; and

WHEREAS, The segregation of schools ultimately reinforces residential segregation and hinders residential mobility and increases an exposure to crime for many Black and other students of color, potentially impacting child development and learning opportunities for students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for improved and more frequent data collection regarding the symbiotic relationship between residential segregation and school segregation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will request the U.S. Department of Education to provide higher funding to economically impacted schools and support federal and state legislation that focuses on eradicating the residential and school segregation that has a disproportionate effect on Black students.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will disseminate this Resolution to state and federal legislators, the U.S. Department of Education, and local school boards.

6. *Addressing Funding Disparities for Public and Private HBCUs*

WHEREAS, Public and private Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have played a critical role in providing higher education to African-American students for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs have been instrumental in promoting diversity, equal opportunity, and social justice in America and also contribute to the nation's economic growth and social welfare by conducting research, providing services, and creating jobs; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs have graduated many prominent figures in politics, business, science, arts, and social justice, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Oprah Winfrey, Thurgood Marshall, Toni Morrison, and Kamala Harris; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs have been suffering from funding disparities for decades, limiting their potential to fulfill their mission and serve their students effectively and face the same challenges and expenses as other colleges and universities, but with fewer resources due to systemic racism and discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Private HBCUs rely heavily on tuition revenue and have fewer options for financial support than non-HBCUs; and

WHEREAS, federal funding per student has decreased significantly since 2003, particularly impacting HBCU students, while HBCU endowments lag substantially behind those of non-HBCUs by at least 70 percent; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs deserve fair and adequate funding from federal, state, and local sources to continue their legacy and impact on the African-American community and society at large; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs are crucial institutions for African-American students and their contributions to American society are immeasurable, and funding disparities for HBCUs must be addressed urgently to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of these institutions; and

WHEREAS, HBCUs should be able to leverage both previous, current, and future inventions and resulting patents to create more funding streams in service of the institution in order to close financial gaps between HBCUs and other institutions; and

WHEREAS, public and private entities; including but not limited to not-for-profits, foundations, federal agencies, and other organizations; should invest in the financial sustainability of HBCUs through developing partnerships, specific grant competitions, and other non and discretionary funding mechanisms.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) reaffirms its 1996 resolution, *Survival of Historical Black Colleges and Universities*, urges government officials at all levels to prioritize funding for HBCUs that are underfunded or facing financial troubles.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon federal private donors and philanthropic organizations to invest in HBCUs, acknowledging the unique and valuable role these institutions play in promoting educational equity and social progress, and further appeals to all individuals and institutions committed to social justice and equality, including all NAACP units, to join forces in supporting HBCUs and securing their future.

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7. *Using Data to Advance Excellence, Not Construct Deficits, Among Black Students*

WHEREAS, Black children in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade settings have historically been subjected to low expectations from educators, causing long-lasting damage to the educational, economic, and social outcomes of Black students; and

WHEREAS, Standardized tests have been used as a tool to maintain systemic racism, preventing Black students from receiving the care and support they need to excel; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Rights Data Collection, which is critical to addressing institutionalized discrimination and advocating for necessary changes in the education system, has been delayed due to incomplete or missing data from states, leading to major setbacks for educational advocacy efforts; and

WHEREAS, Without proper data, education advocates are unable to combat discriminatory practices or target areas that need attention, leaving many Black students at risk of not receiving quality educational experiences and future opportunities; and

WHEREAS, To facilitate educational excellence among Black pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade learners, there needs to be policy changes centered around holistic approaches, data transparency and storytelling, and an emphasis on non-deficit theories and instructional practices.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for a fundamental policy shift to prioritize data-driven efforts to advance excellence among Black students, providing tailored interventions to address the root issues of institutionalized discrimination and promote equity and inclusion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands states to prioritize data transparency and storytelling, providing a complete Civil Rights Data Collection annually, including race and ethnicity data, along with socioeconomic and school-level data, to promote greater accountability and push for meaningful change and informed education policy at local, state and national levels.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for education policymakers to fundamentally shift the narrative around Black students' achievements and their potential, emphasizing non-deficit theories in curriculum, teaching and assessment practices, and

promoting culturally responsive education strategies that validate the strengths and assets Black students bring to the classroom.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on all members of the education community, including policymakers, advocates, and educators, to join forces to combat discrimination, promote equity, and uplift Black students' voices and experiences to ensure that every Black student has a chance to thrive and succeed in pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade education and beyond.

ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

1. *Better Protections on Transporting Hazardous Materials*

WHEREAS, Transportation of hazardous materials continues to cause disproportionate impacts in Black communities and other communities that are considered “sacrifice zones” without better protections in place; and

WHEREAS, In 2021 alone, there were at least 1,049 trains that derailed, with ten involved spilling hazardous material; and

WHEREAS, When the train derailed in February 2023 in East Palestine, Ohio, it was carrying Vinyl Chloride, Stabilized (5); Sulfuric Acid (5); Ethylene Glycol Monobutyl Ether (1); Butyl Acrylate, Stabilized (2); Combustible Liquids, n.o.s. (1); 4 Isobutylene (1) Ethyl-Hexyl Acrylate(1); Empty Residue – last contained liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) (1); Residue – last contained Benzene (2); and

WHEREAS, The Ohio River, which provides drinking water for five million people detected butyl acrylate immediately following the derailment; and

WHEREAS, The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) did not immediately test for highly toxic dioxins, despite the possibility of these groupings of pollutants which can cause cancer; and

WHEREAS, When the train derailed in Raymond, Minnesota in March 2023, it was carrying hazardous material, including ethanol, which caused four cars to catch on fire; and

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WHEREAS, In April 2023, a tractor-trailer spilled over 20,000 pounds of contaminated soil that was being transported from the train derailment earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, Trucks still carry the largest percentage of hazardous materials shipped in the United States; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the Office of Inspector General issued a report to the Federal Railroad Administrator, stating that inspectors were issuing lax penalties for violators of hazmat cargo regulations and failing to refer bad actors for criminal penalties; and

WHEREAS, The National Transportation Safety Board (the “Board”) has testified before the Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on Examining Freight Rail Safety that union participation is needed in railroad incidents as well as other relevant organizations that increases rail worker safety; and

WHEREAS, The Board observed that there was not enough separation between cars carrying hazardous materials and that available train braking systems that would mitigate derailments were not being used as well as a standard that allows for 16 minutes and 30 seconds between communication checks regarding emergency brake signal issues; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Senate asked the Board to review whether it needs additional funding for increased train inspection time as workers currently get 30 to 45 seconds; and

WHEREAS, The 1990 Clean Air Act gives the Environmental Protection Agency broad authority to prevent chemical plant disasters at their source, which could mean safer processes and chemicals carried through communities; and

WHEREAS, States are supposed to have sites to treat contaminated soil, but for certain hazardous waste, it must be disposed in toxic waste incinerators, and known to be disproportionately located in communities of color; and

WHEREAS, The EPA only has about 450 of 1,800 hazardous waste sites that have been prioritized by the agency that could be removed from the EPA’s priority list with extensive cleanup, however, East Palestine is not on the hazardous waste site priority list meaning the timing of cleanup is unknown; and

WHEREAS, The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act that governs hazardous waste disposal and handling of those materials along with the Toxic Substance Control Act that

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regulates disposal of chemicals are opportunities to create strong protections for community members; and

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) advances environmental and climate justice and takes a holistic approach to environmental health and worker safety based on environmental concerns demands stronger protections regarding rail worker safety and road-based driver safety, handling of chemical and other hazardous materials, more buffers in between cars carrying hazardous materials, increased time for inspections, more frequent checks for braking issues, as well as stronger regulations for road-based hazardous material transportation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP also demands that federal agencies, such as the US Department of Transportation and EPA, ensure that Black communities and other frontline communities are not sacrifice zones for soil contamination and disposal, as well as air and water quality issues, when considering transportation and disposal of hazardous waste and material.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP demands the Biden Administration review existing environmental statutes and use of those statutes to protect sacrifice zones as well as utilize federal funding to and mandates for resources into those communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, NAACP units will continue to advocate for more community health options, air, water, and soil quality testing, and input regarding transportation of hazardous waste and demand transparency to ensure Black communities and other excluded communities do not bear the brunt of these incidents.

2. *Biden Environmental Justice Executive Order*

WHEREAS, Climate change and environmental racism inhibited Black communities and other historically excluded communities from having access to resources that build sustainable communities; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP reaffirms its position on resolutions on environmental and climate justice in 1974, 1976, 1977, 1981 1983, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022; and

WHEREAS, In February 1994, former President Clinton signed Executive Order 12898 as a crucial step in memorializing the White House's role in acknowledging environmental justice needs across the country, directing federal agencies at a broad level to identify and address disproportionate effects of environmental racism, and establishing an interagency working group on environmental justice; and

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WHEREAS, In August 2011, former President Barack Obama created the “Memorandum of Understanding of Environmental Justice and Executive Order 12898” that highlighted that communities who have been overburdened by pollution deserve the same protection from environmental hazards as other communities in federal decision-making, specifically strengthening protections under the National Environmental Policy Act and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, as well as reconvening the interagency working group on environmental justice after nearly a decade of being dormant; and

WHEREAS, Despite these promises, Black communities still tend to be under-resourced regarding federal funding, technical assistance for rebuilding infrastructure, and state investment in environmental issues that impact their communities at high rates; and

WHEREAS, In 2020, nearly 70% of Black people shared that they still live near environmental exposures as opposed to 40% of white people in a recent poll by Kaiser Family Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In at least 19 states, Black people are 79% more likely to live near pollution than white people; and

WHEREAS, Black people continue to bear a disproportionate burden of air pollution; and

WHEREAS, President Biden signed the “Executive Order on Revitalizing Our Nation’s Commitment to Environmental Justice for All” which deepens the federal government’s commitment to environmental justice issues, creates the first Office of Environmental Justice within the White House Council on Environmental Quality, and directs agencies to identify gaps in data and cumulative impacts related to environmental justice; and

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) advances environmental and climate justice and will bring awareness to the gaps in equity that exist regarding equity and thus applauds President Biden for demanding a deeper commitment from the federal government to tackle environmental justice and hold agencies accountable to investing in excluded communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP urges community input, federal investments in local communities, and clear data metrics regarding this Executive Order 12898 to ensure accountability across the federal government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that each federal agency and department adequately staffs and creates environmental justice advisory groups as well become

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part of the federal environmental justice interagency working group to further the Biden mandate for federal involvement.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, NAACP units will continue to advocate for federal investments and resources directly to the communities who are frontline and historically excluded.

3. *Calling on the Nature Conservancy to End Support of Biomass Industries*

WHEREAS, Wood biomass is a process that clears trees from our invaluable forests and compress them into tiny capsules that are mostly shipped to other countries, mainly to Europe and Asia, to be burned for energy. Wood biomass is an irresponsible, false climate change solution with environmentally racist impacts caused by the disproportionate placement of toxic wood pellets manufacturing facilities in predominantly Black, Brown and Indigenous communities and exposing these vulnerable populations and our ecosystems to lethal chemicals such as: Particulate Matter (PM2.5), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), Nitrogen Oxide (NOx), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), methanol, formaldehyde, acrolein, diesel and noise pollution; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP passed resolutions in 2021 in opposition to deadly manufacturing and reckless use of wood bioenergy and called on world leaders and nations to halt wood pellet biomass production and the resulting environmental racism and exacerbated climate instability that characterize this industry (<https://naacp.org/resources/resolution-wood-pellets-opposition>). (<https://naacp.org/resources/advancing-global-climate-and-environmental-justice>); and

WHEREAS, Drax, a British-based utility company that transitioned its coal burning power plant to wood biomass, is the largest wood biomass energy producer in the world and operates wood pellet mills across the South and sources from Enviva, the largest wood pellet manufacturer in the world based in Bethesda, Maryland. Drax, Enviva and the wood pellet industry at large benefit from massive subsidies for the UK and other governments, while most faced repeated fines in the United States for emitting illegal levels of pollution in poor, mostly Black communities where they choose to manufacture wood pellets; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) – the largest, richest and most influential international environmental and land trust organization, entrusted with the protection of over 125 million acres of forests, has begun to engage in logging operations on its own nature “preserves” and has been increasingly engaged in pro-logging lobbying and public policy advocacy, alongside wood pellet industry. TNC falsely promotes wood production and logging as climate solutions and signed a March 2023 list of joint policy recommendations to congress with Drax and Enviva, calling for federal subsidies and other forms of government support related to the reauthorization of The Farm Bill (bit.ly/TheNatureConspiracy); and

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WHEREAS, TNC and the forest biomass energy industry disproportionately impact environmental justice communities in the Southern and Northeastern Y.S. with increased air and water pollution and represents growing threats to communities and ecosystems in California and the interior West (<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full10.1089/env.2017.0025>).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP calls upon TNC and other environmental organizations to immediately cease their alignment and support of the forest biomass industry on policy proposals and instead to recognize and acknowledge the environmental racism, adverse climate change impacts, and forest degradation caused by the industry.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP urges TNC to strictly adhere to its mission “*to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends*” and implement transparent policies and procedures that fiercely protect and retain our forests-our best defense against climate change; and promote a viable, just and equitable energy transition, that does not further impair our planet and the poor, disadvantaged people already disproportionately bearing the brunt of adverse impacts of global warming.

4. *Natural Disasters Impacts on Black People*

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) has Memorandums of Understanding with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and with the American Red Cross, regards equity in emergency management as a civil and human right, and seeks to advance the fair and equitable treatment of all communities in times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and Latinos have a higher risk of disaster exposure than White Americans. Furthermore, African Americans and Latinos are more likely than White Americans to experience personal loss, property damage, delayed utility restoration, food insecurity, homelessness, and economic hardship after disasters; and

WHEREAS, While African Americans and Latinos are among those most impacted by disaster events in the United States, they are typically the last groups to receive immediate and long-term federal aid. Additionally, the NAACP has warned that members of these groups may be denied access to program services, aid, or benefits at a disproportionate rate, may receive treatment and benefits in a manner different from others, and may be segregated or treated separately from others during the receipt of any service, aid or benefit, all in ways that constitute discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Federal legislation makes it illegal to discriminate on the basis of color, race, nationality, sex, region, age, disability, or economic status against victims who seek federal disaster assistance and relief. Yet, FEMA often fails to prioritize assisting victims of disasters in Black and other communities of color, rural communities, and low-income areas; and

WHEREAS, an analysis of FEMA grants awarded to 1,621 counties between 2012 and 2015 revealed that counties with a significant population of African American, Latino, or Native American residents, experiencing the same amount of damage as counties of primarily white American residents, received less funding from FEMA; and

WHEREAS, inequitable disaster response at the federal level has far-reaching implications. One such consequence is exacerbated wealth inequality. Studies indicate that in counties impacted by large disasters, African American survivors see their wealth decrease by \$27,000 on average, while white American survivors see their wealth increase by \$126,000 on average. This disparity contributes to a perpetual cycle in which communities of color remain dependent on federal aid and cannot prepare for future disasters or mitigate against harm themselves, while larger communities with considerable resources continue to be prioritized and unjustly enriched; and

WHEREAS, communities are often unaware of other federal funding opportunities during the disaster cycle from agencies such as the U.S. Small Business Association, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, despite FEMA's role in coordinating disaster resources and needs; and

WHEREAS, the Robert T. Stafford Act is the major statute that governs disaster relief, FEMA operations during the disaster cycle, and should be reviewed to ensure that communities most impacted benefit from this law; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has further illustrated the racial disparities in disaster response and relief. Communities of color had more difficulty accessing government funds during the pandemic than white American communities. In Georgia, for example, 53% of unemployment benefit applications by African American employees were denied, while 42% of applications by white American employees were denied. Additionally, businesses in areas with the largest populations of white American residents received roughly twice as many Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP") loans per capita than businesses in areas with the lowest population of White Americans. Furthermore, it took longer for a business with paid employees in "Black ZIP codes" to receive a PPP loan than those without.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will designate individuals from NAACP membership including designees from the Youth and College Division to work directly with FEMA to regularly to provide feedback regarding ways the agency can improve as well as encourage its

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units to assist people of color with invoking their rights to appeal denials for relief if they suspect they have been discriminated against; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will work with FEMA to distribute culturally relevant messaging, tools, training, and other educational and organizational resources available to support NAACP partners' participation in community-based disaster preparedness, response, recovery, mitigation and resilience efforts. These individuals should have backgrounds including but not limited to equity / dei, medicine, business, research, disaster relief, education/training and marketing if possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP will demand FEMA better coordinate disaster recovery resources during the entire disaster cycle, including, ensuring other federal agencies are in regular contact with FEMA regarding grants, loans, and other funds that communities need to rebuild; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support federal legislative efforts for more stringent regulations and standards as well as clearer standards regarding protecting the rights of disaster victims from discriminatory treatment; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will demand FEMA to diversify its workforce to better reflect the racial diversity of the United States.

5. *Water Infrastructure*

WHEREAS, having access to clean and safe drinking water is a pivotal and needed resource in all communities, however systemic racism has constrained this fundamental need for Black people; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP reaffirms resolutions on environmental and climate justice or on water issues passed in 1974, 1976, 1977, 1981 1983, 1990, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, and 2022; and

WHEREAS, Black communities for centuries faced racism in water issues such as Allensworth, California, an agricultural town founded in 1908, based their livelihood on access to safe, drinking water, and because a company gave their water wells to a neighboring white town, it took almost a century for this town to rebuild; and

WHEREAS, cities like Flint, Michigan, Benton Harbor, Michigan, Jackson, Mississippi, Baltimore, Maryland, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania face long-term issues regarding their

water systems due to a lack of investment in water infrastructure, deteriorating pipes, and increased natural disasters due to climate change; and

WHEREAS, without safe, drinking water and access to adequate plumbing, and sanitation systems, communities cannot function at its highest level; and

WHEREAS, during water crises in places like Jackson, Mississippi, schools have to close, businesses lose revenue and have to close their doors, and hospitals have to make tough decisions regarding whether they can perform needed procedures; and

WHEREAS, many Black and other historically excluded communities have normalized using bottled water instead of drinking tap water because of decades of disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, Black people in the United States are twice as likely to lack access to adequate plumbing and sanitation as exhibited by Lowndes County, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, states that have not prioritized Black communities create a perpetual issue of under-resourcing Black communities and those states withhold federal funding that should flow to the communities that need it most; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration has mandated that states prioritize communities that have faced disinvestment through Justice40 and has allocated millions of dollars to water infrastructure through funding like the Inflation Reduction Act; and

WHEREAS, Black communities continue to face state legislative water takeover attempts and destructive governors who aim to control of their water systems and any resources that Black and other disadvantaged communities receive from federal investments; and

WHEREAS, Black communities continue to have disproportionately more safe drinking water act violations because of a lack of funding to fix water issues within their communities; and

WHEREAS, infant mortality rates and other health issues impact Black communities at high rates because of wastewater and drinking water system issues; and

WHEREAS, while Congress recognizes the need for better water infrastructure, many environmental statues place harm on residents and vulnerable communities and subject local communities to penalties without resources and technical assistance to fix the issues; and

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WHEREAS, information regarding water quality and testing is inaccessible in many communities which leaves the most impacted individuals without a cost-effective way to understand a basic need within their home or residence; and

WHEREAS, the Biden Administration recently created the first Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights along with the new White House Office of Environmental Justice that should center the needs of Black communities who have faced years of disinvestment in their water systems, including any processes that can help remedy past harm; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has filed lawsuits, civil rights administrative complaints, and testified before Congress demanding that safe and clean water and water systems are prioritized for Black communities and for other frontline communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP demands for federal, state, and local governments to prioritize safe, drinking water and infrastructure for Black communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP demands better federal and state data and metrics to understand water issues in Black communities and other frontline communities as well as funding allocations by states to Black communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP demands federal agencies to use their roles to protect the most vulnerable communities, not just for compliance, including ensuring that processes for remedies to water issues do not cause undue burdens on disadvantaged communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP demands more investment in water testing and infrastructure, affordable sewage systems, and cost-accessible solutions for communities who suffer from unsafe drinking water, wastewater issues, and sanitation; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP demands a community-based approach in considering economic opportunities in rebuilding and creating new water systems.

HEALTH

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1. Addressing Food Insecurity and the Future of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

WHEREAS, Food insecurity remains a growing problem in the United States, especially among lower-income communities of color; and

WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health determined in 2020 that health disparities exacerbated by racial discrimination increased the prevalence of food insecurity for Black households and the COVID-19 pandemic caused higher rates of food insecurity for Black households than other populations; and

WHEREAS, Food insecurity can have harmful lifelong effects on the health and well-being of individuals, which can lead to higher incidences of chronic disease, such as obesity, hypertension, and malnutrition-related disorders, exacerbating health disparities; and

WHEREAS, Food insecurity is especially harmful to children as it can disrupt their physical, emotional and cognitive development, which can be especially impactful and lead to lifelong effects on their health, education and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Programs, most notably, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps, remain one of the most important and effective policy tools to address and improve food security and nutrition in this country; and

WHEREAS, This program continues to provide vital economic benefits for individuals and communities with a proven track record of reducing hunger, creating jobs, and having an overall positive economic impact on the communities where SNAP is used; and

WHEREAS, The SNAP program is operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the, Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, known as the Farm Bill. The current version of the Farm Bill is up for its 5-year reauthorization expiring on September 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Despite the ongoing proven need for SNAP and nutritional programs it is being targeted by some congressional policymakers for cuts to beneficiaries and changes to its requirements; and

WHEREAS, There is a strong push among certain congressional leaders and members to impose stricter work requirements for SNAP beneficiaries above the current SNAP rules that already impose limitations for people aged 18 to 49 to three months of financial assistance every three years unless they are working, in a work or training program at least 20 hours a week, or qualify

for limited exemptions. Mounting evidence shows that these SNAP requirements increase hardship without improving employment outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Inflation has greatly contributed to much higher prices of all food items which sharply impacts and limits millions of individuals and families spending abilities; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Department of Agriculture’s Equity Commission tasked to make recommendations for changes to USDA policies and programs that eliminate barriers and systemic discrimination and advance equity, the NAACP will use that forum to inform, advise and speak in full support of equitable policies and programs that reduce food insecurity; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP reaffirms its previous resolutions from 1976, 1997, 2011, 2014, 2020 speaking to food insecurity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP will strongly advocate against any and all attempts to reduce funding for SNAP, as well as strongly advocate to increase current and future funding based on the median income of Black/African Americans and indigenous populations of that county, and the implementation of new harsh and unwarranted work requirements.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP remain engaged with the Biden Administration and Congress as the Farm Bill reauthorization proceeds in opposition to cuts to SNAP or any changes that will take food away from people of color, children, older Americans, veterans, low-income working parents and people with disabilities, whom have been forced through law and policy to live at the economic margins.

2. *Eliminating the Shortage of Medical Workers*

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) seeks to confront and eliminate societal and institutional barriers that undermine the advancement of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the need for trauma-informed and culturally competent care centered in racial equity principles that addresses socioeconomic, cultural and linguistic differences; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, the *Internal Journal of Medicine* found that increasing the number of Black physicians could reduce Black-White gaps in life expectancy, (see, Ly, D.P. Historical Trends in the Representativeness and Incomes of Black Physicians, 1900–2018. *J GEN INTERN MED* **37**, 1310–1312 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11606-021-06745-1>); and

WHEREAS, Within other health care professions, an estimated 7.8 percent of nurses, 3.8 percent of dentists, and 2.5 percent of physical therapists are Black (id.); and

WHEREAS, The costs associated with obtaining education and training in medical professions are prohibitive due to the requirements of course work, testing, application, and travel involving the interviewing process and these costs are more difficult for Black people to assume than their non-Black counterparts; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, President Biden signed the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act into law, named after an emergency medical physician who died by suicide during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act established grants for “programs to promote mental health and resiliency among health care providers.” While this effort is commendable, studies predict that the demand for healthcare workers will outpace supply by 2025. Currently, there is an estimated 446,000-person gap for health aides, a 29,000-person gap for nurse practitioners, and an 11,000-person gap for physicians and surgeons. The U.S. also faces critical shortages of allied health and behavioral health professionals, especially in historically marginalized rural and urban communities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for pay increases and support efforts to forgive and reduce student loans for healthcare workers, and allied Behavioral Health Professionals to alleviate the financial burden of education costs and incentivize workers to return to their jobs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports legislation that will increase mental health support for healthcare workers, who face increasing demands and are still reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for measures that improves opportunity including increased federal funding through HRSA for Health Career Opportunity Programs and reduce costs for current and potential Black physicians and allied health professionals.

3. *Expanding Treatment for Sickle Cell Disease*

WHEREAS, The NAACP is committed to ending racial health disparities by creating an inclusive ecosystem of healthy people and communities that includes focusing in on chronic diseases that disproportionately affect the Black community; and

WHEREAS, Sickle cell disease (SCD) is a genetic red blood cell disorder that is inherited and disproportionately affects the Black community. People of African descent make up 90% of the

population with sickle cell disease in the U.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicates that there are 100,000 Americans who are stricken with SCD, including one out of every 365 African Americans. Furthermore, the sickle cell trait is in the DNA of one of 13 African American babies born in the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Sickle Cell Data collection system compiles data regarding Americans with sickle cell disease to examine "long-term trends in diagnosis, treatment, healthcare access and to determine patient needs as well as the barriers blocking treatment. The end result is the enactment of actions which increase appropriate utilization of services resulting in lower mortality and morbidity rates; and

WHEREAS, Patients with SCD experience severe pain and they often have no option other than to seek treatment in an Emergency Room. During a survey-based needs assessment at several SCDIC centers. The assessment surveyed 516 adolescents and adults with SCD and 243 ED providers from several regions of the US regarding how Emergency Departments treated SCD patients. Toplines reveal 46% and 35% reported feeling emergency physicians and nurses, respectively, did not care about them. So, in 2014, the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute published SCD treatment guidelines; and

WHEREAS, The Covid-19 pandemic has affected the treatment and funding supports for SCD including the shortage of Black blood donations which has negatively impacted one of the more effective therapies. This coupled with the reality that people with SCD are at greater risk of severe illness and death from respiratory (lung) infections, including COVID-19, than people without SCD has made the urgency of now more apparent.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for the following:

- The full adoption of the recommendations in the 2022 Congressional Resolution that the designated June 19 as "World Sickle Cell Awareness Day." The recommendations calls on the White House, Congress, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Department of Veterans Affairs, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to: (A) Align resources with state policymakers and sickle cell stakeholders to ensure patients on Medicaid/MediCal have access to all available treatments for SCD; (B) Declare at the national, state and local level that SCD is a public health crisis; and (C) Adopt meaningful policies that fully fund the research and innovation therapies focused on the eradication of SCD.
- Expanded funding from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for SCD including data collection, research, training for all medical professionals, especially Emergency Departments, in all states and other needed services.

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- The creation of stronger standardized treatment guidelines by the CDC to treat the disease beyond pain management that focuses on the whole person and considers a holistic approach to health outcomes.
- Increased funding through the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for state-based Medicaid and Medicare programs that improves accessibility to treatments, invest in research, promote the development of innovative new therapies, and provide engagement spaces with the broader community on best practices to improve sickle cell disease care.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reaffirm the 2017 Sickle Cell Resolution and declare SCD a public health crisis and provide guidance to all units on how to advocate and effectuate change properly.

4. Lowering the Cost of Access to Healthcare (Protecting the ACA)

WHEREAS, In 2020, there were 41.1 million Black Americans who identified as one race and 46.9 million Black Americans who identified as Black or African American in combination with another race or ethnicity accounting for 12.4 percent and 14.2 percent of the total U.S. population, respectively. Since 2010, the number of Black Americans in combination with at least one other race grew 88.7 percent, and the number of Black Americans who identify as one race increased 5.6 percent since 2010; and

WHEREAS, Since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA)'s coverage provisions, the uninsured rate among Black Americans under age 65 decreased by 8 percentage points, from 20 percent in 2011 to 12 percent in 2019. The uninsured rate for Black Americans, however, is still higher than that for White Americans: 12 percent compared to 9 percent; and

WHEREAS, While access to care improved for Black Americans between 2011 and 2020, disparities in affordability of health care between Black and White Americans persist; and

WHEREAS, Southern states that have not expanded Medicaid have some of the nation's highest uninsured rates for all population groups, as well as large Black populations; and

WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act (ACA) increased availability of affordable coverage options via Medicaid expansion in participating states and Marketplace coverage with premium subsidies. Studies show that the ACA's coverage expansions narrowed racial and ethnic health disparities in coverage and access to care; and

WHEREAS, If the ACA were repealed and not replaced, the Urban Institute predicts the uninsured rate would increase to a level even higher than before the ACA. Although the ACA has helped 20 million people get coverage, about 29 million people still lack health insurance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP will advocate to preserve and implement the Affordable Care Act as one of several solutions to lowering the barrier to healthcare access and coverage along with expanding Medicaid, ensuring Medicare solvency and pushing for the continuation of federal funding for community clinics and hospitals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will advocate for expanded cost-saving provisions to be applied to the ACA Marketplace that will further lower the cost to access by increasing Federal negotiating power for plans and rates for those financially impaired.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will continue to explore additional innovative policy and practice solutions to ensure the ACA reach is deepened within the communities we serve.

5. *Protecting and Expanding Medicaid Now and Into the Future*

WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act's (ACA) Medicaid expansion expanded Medicaid coverage to nearly all adults with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level; and

WHEREAS, Research shows Medicaid expansion to low-income adults has shown evidence of decreased racial disparities in coverage rates, affordability of care, utilization of surgery and other services, and health outcomes including maternal and infant mortality; and

WHEREAS, A May 2021 [Kaiser Family Foundation report](#) finds that Medicaid expansion has improved or had a positive impact on:

- Overall mortality rates;
- Coverage and access to care among populations with cancer, chronic disease, and/or disabilities;
- Outcomes related to sexual and reproductive health;
- Access to care and outcomes related to substance use disorder (SUD) as well as other mental health care;
- Social determinants of health
- Financial impacts for states, hospitals, and other providers

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WHEREAS, A [Distribution of the Nonelderly with Medicaid by Race/Ethnicity](#) shows that of those covered by Medicaid in 2021, 18.6% are Black, 29.2% are Hispanic, 4.7% are Asian/Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, .9% are American Indian/Alaska Native, and 6.3% identify with multiple races; and

WHEREAS, 38 states and the District of Columbia have adopted and implemented Medicaid expansion, 2 states have adopted but not implemented Medicaid expansion (North Carolina, Sout Dakota), and 10 states (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming) have not adopted the expansion; and

WHEREAS, Under federal legislation, March 31, 2023, was the end date for the continuous coverage requirement, a key provision that has kept states from terminating most people's Medicaid coverage since the pandemic began in March 2020; and

WHEREAS, Up to 18 million people could lose their coverage during the unwinding deepening already severe health disparities and inequities with over 50% of those anticipated to lose coverage being people of color.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP strongly advocates for Medicaid Expansion to be adopted in the following states to protect their most vulnerable: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, through the Medicaid Unwinding process, the NAACP urges all states to conduct sufficient outreach to Medicaid beneficiaries, develop plans and improve systems to transition people no longer eligible to other coverage alternatives, and review and improve renewal processes so that people who remain eligible for Medicaid do not lose coverage for procedural reasons.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP urges all 50 states to adopt, implement, maintain, and protect Medicaid expansion and coverage to prioritize the health and well-being of their most vulnerable.

Sources:

<https://www.kff.org/report-section/building-on-the-evidence-base-studies-on-the-effects-of-medicaid-expansion-february-2020-to-march-2021-report/>

<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/status-of-state-medicaid-expansion-decisions-interactive-map/>

<https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/medicaid-distribution-nonelderly-by-raceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>

<https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/last-11-states-should-expand-medicaid-to-maximize-coverage-and-protect-against>

6. *Racial Disparities in the Involuntary Commitment and Hospitalization of Children*

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) seeks to promote a better understanding of mental health, deter the criminalization of mental illness, prohibit discrimination, and prevent the traumatization of school-aged children under the guise of purported mental health risks; and

WHEREAS, Involuntary commitment statutes encourage the involuntary commitment of persons for psychiatric care when voluntary admission seems impossible based on a person’s behavior; these statutes apply to both children and adults, often lacking statutory language distinguishing between the treatment of the two; and

WHEREAS, When a child’s behavior appears to satisfy the criteria under these statutes, law enforcement officers are permitted to initiate the involuntary examination process by transporting the child to a psychiatric facility without parental input or authorization, often notwithstanding parental objections. The child must often then wait hours or days until the examination is completed; and

WHEREAS, Despite the purported intent of involuntary commitment statutes, teachers and police officers are using them to deal with students who may be difficult to manage for reasons unrelated to mental health; and

WHEREAS, Civil commitment can have scarring effects on children. Studies have shown that children who are committed to mental institutions are more susceptible to stigmatization and are less likely to seek out voluntary treatment in the future; and

WHEREAS, An international study has shown that in the United States, the odds of involuntary hospitalization for Black children are higher than the odds of involuntary hospitalization for White children. In Florida, for example, nearly 36,000 children per year are committed for psychiatric

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exams, with Black students being involuntarily committed at twice the rate of White students. In California, Black youth accounted for 14.4% of youth receiving mobile crisis response services from 2016 to 2019 in Los Angeles County, constituting an overrepresentation relative to their population size; and

WHEREAS, Some states, such as North Carolina, have not kept consistent or comprehensive records of civil commitment within the state. School districts are often not required to keep or report data regarding the number of times students have been involuntarily hospitalized, the demographics of those children, or whether those children have been involuntarily hospitalized repeatedly; and even when data is collected, it is not done in a uniform manner that would allow for analysis and comparison; and

WHEREAS, Information regarding the civil commitment of children is limited, especially compared to the amount of information available regarding the civil commitment of adults. Collecting and analyzing this data on a national scale is crucial to understanding the extent of racial disparities within this context. Current data collection practices result in inconsistency and, therefore, don't provide the factual basis for the widespread reform that may be necessary.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate for the creation of federal, state and municipal requirements for uniform data collection regarding involuntary commitment and hospitalization of children in the United States so that reported information can be analyzed, published to ensure accountability, and used as a basis for legislative modifications and improvements where necessary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate for a bifurcation of involuntary commitment laws for adults versus minors. The bifurcation process must include a reassessment of each policy, practice and standard to eliminate those that are unsound, unreasonable, and damaging to children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will, where possible, in each local unit, under the Commission of Health, establish a list of health care professionals who will volunteer to help legal guardians of those Black children being involuntarily committed to mental health facilities and hospitals, navigate the mental health and medical system.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will disseminate this Resolution to all relevant Government agencies and officials to engage in a proactive process of policy creation and modification.

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7. ***Women’s Rights to Reproductive Freedom and Health***

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) acknowledges reproductive justice as a core principle of civil and human rights and seeks to protect the right of all women, especially African-American women, to exercise their reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy safely; and

WHEREAS, Reproductive rights refer to “the composite of human rights that address matters of sexual and reproductive health.” Reproductive rights can be categorized broadly as the rights to (1) “reproductive self-determination,” (2) “sexual and reproductive health services, information, and education,” and (3) “equality and nondiscrimination”; and

WHEREAS, Reproductive rights, particularly abortion rights, have come under recent attack. In 1973, the Supreme Court established a constitutional right to abortion care in *Roe v. Wade*. In 2022, in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, the Supreme Court overruled fifty years of precedent, leaving decisions about abortion services up to the states; and

WHEREAS, Deciding whether and when to have children is vital to women’s socioeconomic well-being and health. Considerable research has shown that women who are denied abortion care are more likely to experience gestational diabetes and hypertension, amongst other complications that increase their risk of death from pregnancy. The prevalence of “back alley” abortions that are inherently unsafe is also cause for concern. In fact, a recent study projected that abortion bans would increase the number of U.S. pregnancy-related deaths by 24% nationwide and by 39% for African American women. In addition to the physical risks, women who are denied abortion care face greater levels of stress and an increased risk of developing depressive, bipolar, and anxiety disorders during pregnancy; and

WHEREAS, Abortion bans negatively affect the financial security and social advancement of women. Studies have shown that abortion bans widened the gender pay gap for women with downstream effects on their children, communities, and local and state economies. Women who are denied access to abortion are often unable to complete their educations, participate in the workforce, and contribute adequately to their state and local economies. Consequently, these women experience lower credit scores, increased debt, bankruptcy, and evictions. These economic indicators affect not only abortion-seeking women but also their children, who have a heightened risk of developing behavioral problems, suffering from developmental delays, underperforming in school and experiencing child poverty and neglect; and

WHEREAS, The *Dobbs* decision immediately triggered a “variegated checkerboard of access to women’s healthcare” nationwide. As of January 2023, Alabama, Tennessee, West Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, South Dakota, and

Idaho have banned abortion entirely with no or few exceptions. States like Arizona, Florida, Georgia, and Utah follow closely behind with gestational age bans, some of which are being challenged before their respective state supreme courts. In fact, a legal challenge to Florida's 15-week ban is the only thing keeping the South one state shy of a regional ban. New Florida legislation passed on April 14, 2023, that bans abortion after six weeks — before many women know that they are pregnant — is the latest threat to roughly “15 million women of reproductive age who live in abortion-banning states throughout the South, many of whom have previously relied on travel to Florida as an option to access care”; and

WHEREAS, At last count, abortion has remained accessible to residents of Virginia and New Hampshire, but without legal protection. Abortion is unavailable in North Dakota after the state's sole clinic was moved to Minnesota. Finally, states like Indiana, Wyoming, Ohio, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, Kansas, and North Carolina have legislatures that are hostile to abortion; and

WHEREAS, Extremist lawmakers nationwide have taken steps to target not only abortion-seeking women but also their allies. A Texas lawmaker has proposed a bill denying tax breaks to any business that helps employees to pay to leave the state for abortion care. Idaho is considering a law that would withhold dollars from municipal governments that refuse to enforce abortion laws. Furthermore, amid a national healthcare staff shortage, lawmakers nationwide are taking measures to subject abortion providers to criminal prosecution. Wyoming, for example, has one of America's worst physician shortages and may find it even more difficult to recruit doctors if it were to move forward with anti-abortion efforts; and

WHEREAS, Abortion access is a racial justice issue. Most of the states that have adopted a total ban on abortion, or have hostile abortion laws, are in the South and the Midwest, where the majority of African Americans live, in areas where large shares of Latino women reside, and in the Plains, where a large Indigenous population exists; and

WHEREAS, A 2019 study found that African American women accounted for roughly 38.4% of abortions in the United States. This number is explained in part by the fact that Black women (1) are more likely to live in “contraception deserts” and are less likely to receive comprehensive sex education—a critical factor in preventing unwanted pregnancies, (2) are disproportionately victims of sexual violence, (3) have the highest maternal mortality rate in the United States and (4) are more likely to be trapped in a cycle of poverty as a result of unintended pregnancies. Moreover, African-American women are disproportionately affected by the socioeconomic and health consequences of abortion banning; and

WHEREAS, On March 30, 2023, the Women's Health Protection Act was reintroduced in the United States House of Representatives. If passed, the Act would re-establish a nationwide right to abortion; and

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WHEREAS, There is a real risk that a decision by a single judge could result in a national ban on the use of mifepristone — a drug used in the majority of abortions in the United States. This case has potential consequences in states where the right to abortion has not been limited and would have a disproportionate negative impact on African-American women due to their greater difficulty in accessing and affording surgical abortions; and

WHEREAS, The reversal of *Roe v. Wade* has substantive and procedural legal implications that stretch far beyond the issue of abortion. As of 2023, at least one sitting Supreme Court Justice has signaled a reevaluation of cases, built on a similar footing to *Dobbs*, challenging the constitutional right to privacy in areas such as contraception, same-sex intimacy, and same-sex marriage. Additionally, at least one state has launched a legislative attack on state courts in an effort to restrict the power of judges to grant injunctions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2022 resolution for preserving reproductive justice and its 2004 resolution on the March for Life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP opposes legislation in every state, the District of Columbia, and all territories that seek to undermine the fundamental right to abortion and any other reproductive, civil, and human right.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the passage of the Women’s Health Protection Act of 2023.

HOUSING

1. *Testing as a Civil Rights Mechanism to Prove Discrimination*

WHEREAS, Widespread discrimination against Black Americans continues to exist in housing, employment and other areas of American Life including public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, Discrimination is on the rise in the United States, as manifested by an increase in incidents of bias, hate crimes, hate groups, and mass shootings resulting from the proliferation of hate content in media, and the normalization of biased rhetoric; and

WHEREAS, The Pew Research Center in a nationwide survey found that 95 percent of Black adults felt Black Americans continue to experience discrimination and 80 percent expressed that Black Americans experience “a lot” of discrimination; and

WHEREAS, 54% of Hispanic adults, half of Asian adults and 38% of White adults say that Black Americans face “some” discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Living wage employment, affordable housing, and equal access to public accommodations, services, and opportunities are essential to well-being and equal citizenship; and

WHEREAS, Conservative courts and the erosion of legal precedent have made proving discrimination more difficult to prove; and

WHEREAS, Direct and clarifying evidence greatly improves the record of proof needed to prove illegal discrimination but is frequently unavailable in legal cases; and,

WHEREAS, Redress through administrative or legal remedies is useful and necessary to fight against discrimination; and

WHEREAS, Housing testing is a proven methodology for establishing illegal discrimination in administrative and judicial matters and precedent; and,

WHEREAS, Effective housing testing requires training modules and certification to enable its use within NAACP units; and

WHEREAS, The National Office of the NAACP and its Housing Committee has historically supported the use of testing as a mechanism to prove discrimination in housing, public accommodation, and other uses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will establish a fair housing testing and training program with a nationally recognized housing advocacy organization to utilize best practices in identifying illegal discrimination in administrative and judicial matters and precedent to be provided to each unit of the NAACP for implementation.

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INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. *Addition of Assistant Advisor to the Bylaws and Background Checks*

WHEREAS, Article V section 11(D) states: The youth council and advisor may select the Assistant Advisors as they see fit; and

WHEREAS, Article V section 11(A) states: There shall be an advisor for youth councils in conformity with the rules of the Association. The Advisor must be a member in good standing of the Association, be at least twenty-five (25) years of age or at least twenty-two (22) years of age if the person is a member of the branch; and

WHEREAS, Compliant youth councils have 25 or more members; and

WHEREAS, Youth councils are active within the community, hosting events, developing programs, meeting with elected officials amongst other various activities; and

WHEREAS, The supervision ratios for similar nonprofit organizations that are not in the education or early years sectors for children 13 - 18 years of age is one adult to ten children; and

WHEREAS, The use of criminal background checks can assist organizations in making more informed and appropriate decisions in the choice of a chaperone; and

WHEREAS, The assistant advisor to be appointed with the position can be selected in conformity with the rules of the Association. The assistant advisor shall be outlined as a necessary component to overall youth unit continuity and success.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reaffirms its support of the youth council advisor by adding the assistant advisor position to the Bylaws.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will urge all of its youth units to work to elect assistant advisors.

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP Office of General Counsel will establish a centralized process and set of procedures for branches to submit and conduct background checks of all advisors and assistant advisors prior to affirmation of their election to the executive committee. Additionally, results should be shared with the President and Secretary with clear guidelines for privacy protection.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. *Advocate for Increased Trade Opportunities with African Nations*

WHEREAS, The continent of Africa is the ancestral home of our people; and

WHEREAS, The 54 countries of Africa contain 17% of the world's population and are on track to being the home of 26% by 2050. This represents an emerging market for Black Americans who have traditionally been left out of trade opportunities on the continent; and

WHEREAS, The United States has been the major trade partner with the nations of Africa for decades, and they are now in danger of losing that position to China. The U.S. has treated the nation of Africa as vassals. Dictating the terms of trade agreements rather than negotiating as equal partners. Investment in the continent has mostly consisted of military and humanitarian aid to the governments. China has invested in infrastructure, education, and business opportunities. China's inroads threatened to close the U.S. out of these markets; and

WHEREAS, In 1956, President Dwight Eisenhower formalized and prioritized the development of sister-city relationships by creating Sister Cities International. Sister Cities International is not an official part of the government. Still, since its founding, the sitting U.S. president has been an honorary chairman of the organization, giving the institution a special status. Sister cities have been shown to have measurable direct economic benefits and provide cultural and educational people-to-people links; and

WHEREAS, In July of 2021, the Biden-Harris administration launched the Prosper Africa Build Together program. This program is supposed to energize the U.S. commitment to trade and

investment with countries across the African continent. It includes a targeted, long-term effort to connect American and African businesses with new trade and investment opportunities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 1997 Resolution on U.S. Trade and Investment, its 2003 Resolution Supporting the Efforts of the Constituency for Africa and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAL), and its 2010 Resolution, The NAACP Strengthening its Relationship with Africa and African Diaspora.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will provide information regarding Sister Cities International and Biden Administration policies and programs to its units to inform them about opportunities to network and access new trade markets with cities in African nations for possible collaboration, development and expansion of Black-owned businesses.

2. *Creation of a Sustainable Immigration Policy for the United States*

WHEREAS, Title 42 is a public health law that allows U.S. Customs and Border Protection to deny individuals entrance into the United States in order to “prevent [the] spread of communicable disease”; and

WHEREAS, It was implemented at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 as part of the Public Health Emergency operated under the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and

WHEREAS, Since that time, Title 42 has been mandated to immediately expel arriving migrants, including hundreds of thousands of families and children, arriving from the U.S.- Mexico border without allowing them to first apply for asylum or other potential humanitarian protections; and

WHEREAS, Many of those individuals and families were African immigrants along with immigrants from Haiti, Central America, Mexico and surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, Title 42 has been a significant part of both the Trump and Biden administrations’ border policies and management strategies; and

WHEREAS, On May 11, 2023 the Public Health Emergency ended, which includes the expiration of Title 42; and

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WHEREAS, The Biden Administration has been preparing for the end of Title 42 and the anticipated increase of migrant family detention at the border which will significantly further strain border management and processing capacity; and

WHEREAS, The Administration will be requesting additional funding from Congress to support additional border guards, construction of detention facilities, and other needed supports. Some of which was included the President's Fiscal Year Budget for 2024; and

WHEREAS, migrants are being transported to sanctuary cities without a strategic plan to properly receive them. Further causing hyper strain and drain of limited resources in impoverished Black communities.

WHEREAS, That the NAACP reaffirms its previous resolutions, from 2001, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2018, addressing immigration and our long standing commitment to the protection and expansion of civil and human rights for all communities of color, and remains ardently opposed to the separation of families at any time.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will continue to demand that the current and future Administrations and Congress to develop and implement more sustainable asylum and border management processes that are more humane, equitable, and orderly border systems.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will continue to demand increased funding from Congress for much needed humane border and Black communities in sanctuary cities support.

LABOR

1. *Protection of Cannabis Workers*

WHEREAS, The NAACP reaffirms its cannabis Resolutions of 2010, 2013, 2016, 2019, 2021, and 2022; and

WHEREAS, The majority of people in the cannabis industry will be workers rather than owners; and the workers who grow, process, test, distribute, and sell cannabis deserve a fair and safe workplace and family-sustaining job like every other worker; and

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WHEREAS, Access to union representation, training and apprenticeship will help ensure that a broad range of workers can benefit from the cannabis industry, especially workers from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by cannabis prohibition in the past; and

WHEREAS, Unions have consistently led the way in organizing workers, including cannabis workers, and unions currently represent thousands of workers in the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, Unions have a long history of establishing hiring centers, workforce development programs, training and apprenticeships that ensure diverse, skilled, and long-tenured workforces and have led the way in creating an apprenticeship program that raise the standards for jobs and create pathways for equitable opportunity for work and career advancement;

WHEREAS, A well-constructed cannabis training or apprenticeship program will help ensure that cannabis jobs go to the formerly incarcerated and communities most affected by the War on Drugs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for the legalization and de-scheduling of cannabis at the federal level and reaffirms its past resolutions on cannabis, the cannabis industries, decriminalization, and equity, and expresses an intent to advocate for federal, state, and local medical and adult-use cannabis legislation that includes labor peace agreements as a condition of licensure and ensures that all cannabis workers from cultivation to sale to delivery are treated as employees under the National Labor Relations Act, Fair Labor Standards Act and Occupational Safety and Health Administration; including the right to join, form or organize a union.

LEGAL

1. *Law School and Bar Association Programs that Encourage Lawyers and Law Students to Commit to a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pledge*

WHEREAS, There continue to be deeply embedded racial inequalities in the United States, particularly in the administration of and access to justice; and

WHEREAS, These systemic problems have increased in recent years and threaten the viability of our democracy and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, Solutions to these problems must include both enforcement of existing civil rights laws and legal changes to strengthen these legal protections; and

WHEREAS, Enforcement and change will require a greater commitment to public service and pro bono work by lawyers and law students; and

WHEREAS, Many lawyers want to be part of the solution, but a lack of direction as to what attorneys can or should do to accomplish these goals has always been a barrier to full participation; and

WHEREAS, The legal redress committees of the NAACP across the nation are shorthanded and in great need of additional lawyer and law student support to address systemic racial injustice and inequality and fulfill the NAACP mission to "ensure the . . . equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work to encourage the law schools and bar associations in their jurisdictions, the Association of American Law Schools, the National Bar Association, and the American Bar Association, to take action necessary for the creation of law school and bar association diversity equity and inclusion pledge programs that will encourage and inspire lawyers and law students to make a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion pledge and to work to achieve an America that lives up to its promise of equality and freedom.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP advocate for a change in the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct to include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Pledge. <https://www.iowabar.org/?pg=2023YLDDEIPledge>

2. *In Support of Diversity and Inclusion Policies and Ant-Racism Programs*

WHEREAS, Diversity reflects the differences among people with respect to numerous factors, including, but not limited to race; and

WHEREAS, Equity embodies the fair treatment for all group members and a concerted effort to identify and remove barriers to members being successful, particularly those barriers rooted in discrimination and animus; and

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WHEREAS, Inclusion refers to fostering each group member’s sense of belonging, with acceptance and appreciation of each member’s unique qualities; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, certain state and federal legislators and other officials have opposed and attacked the concepts of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and anti-racism programs, and have proposed and passed laws, regulations, and policies seeking to eliminate these important programs in education, government services and agencies, and the workplace; and

WHEREAS, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion programs and anti-racism programs and those who implement and administer them are necessary to reaching important organizational goals, and eliminating the scourge of racism and discrimination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP will vigorously oppose the passage of all such proposed legislation, regulations, and policies.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will file litigation challenging the constitutionality and lawfulness of such legislation, regulations, and policies that have passed or been implemented.

3. *Pledge to Educate, Validate, and Litigate the Link Between Hair Relaxers and Cancer*

WHEREAS, On October 17, 2022, the National Institutes of Health announced that its study, the “Sister Study”, found that women who used chemical hair straightening products were at higher risk for uterine cancer, with an author of the study noting: “Because Black women use hair straightening or relaxer products more frequently and tend to initiate use at earlier ages than other races and ethnicities, these findings may be even more relevant for them.”; and

WHEREAS, Historically, Black women in the United States have experienced great social pressure to adopt Eurocentric standards of straight hair; and

WHEREAS, Depending on the year of the survey and prevalent hairstyles, up to 80 percent of Black American women have reported using a chemical hair straightening product also known as a “relaxer”, “perm”, or “permanent”; and

WHEREAS, On October 24, 2022, the first lawsuit was filed in which a plaintiff claimed that her uterine cancer was directly and proximately caused by her regular and prolonged exposure to chemicals found in a defendants’ hair care products, with numerous similar lawsuits being filed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP will vigorously seek to educate its members, especially Black women members, Black women in general, and all people of color about the higher risk for uterine cancer associated with use of chemical hair straightening product, and encourage and support further and greater research of the harmful effects of such products.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will, when appropriate, file or join litigation, which seeks to support and protect those harmed by these products.

LEGISLATIVE

1. *Call for U.S. Congress to Cause to Urge the United States Supreme Court to Develop and Abide by Ethical Standards*

WHEREAS, There is clear and convincing evidence that the United States Supreme Court has failed to adhere to any ethical standards, as shown by mounting allegations of misconduct by multiple Justices, involving clear and obvious conflicts of interest, including those related to members of their families; and

WHEREAS, It has become increasingly evident that the Court has refused to self-govern and has not addressed any of these numerous alleged ethical issues.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hereby demands that the United States Congress immediately take all steps within its power, or otherwise call upon the Court, to develop ethical rules by which Justices must abide, including mandatory recusal from all matters in which a Justice has a conflict of interest.

2. *In Support of Federal Oversight in Response to Actions that Restrict and Erode Reparative Policies*

WHEREAS, The NAACP has long stood in favor of financial reparations to African Americans and persons of African descent in the United States who are descendants of slavery and the Jim Crow Era; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP's original policy position, as embodied in H.R. 40, demands that the United States Government commence hearings and a study commission to examine the issue of reparations; and

WHEREAS, History reflects that federal, state and local governments have facilitated particularized harm to Black communities based in racial animus; and

WHEREAS, History reflects that federal oversight has also served a critical role to ensure that states and localities address historic inequity; and

WHEREAS, Policy and legislation enacted through the Executive Branch and the current administration through its focus on racial justice presents targeted approaches to reduce historic social inequity imposed on Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, Since the adoption of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 until today, racist backlash from specific federal, state, and local policymakers has targeted the agency of Black Americans while seeking to erode voting rights, reduce federal investment in Black communities, and end federal oversight of reparative policy solutions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms past support for a Reparations policy expressed in 1997, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2016, 2019, and 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports prescriptive federal oversight of state and local actions that perennially focus on eroding the progress of Black Americans and other people of color.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will establish mechanisms for its units to report on state and local actions that erect barriers, erode social and economic progress, and diminish civic engagement by Black Americans and other people of color.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that the federal government restrict funding to any state or locality found to engage in activity that hinders, erodes, or reduces gains of Black Americans in reparative economic or social justice, fairness in the application of the law, voting rights, and other measures targeted at reducing historic harm.

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3. ***The DACA Program Should be Continued***

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) seeks to confront and eliminate societal and institutional prejudices deterring the advancement of people of color; and

WHEREAS, “The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”) program was intended as a stopgap measure to protect some of the nation’s most vulnerable immigrants — young people who were brought to the country as children and have grown up essentially as Americans — until Congress could agree on a comprehensive immigration overhaul or, at the least, pass a bill to offer them a path to citizenship”; and

WHEREAS, To be eligible to receive DACA status, individuals must have come to the United States under the age of sixteen. They must be in school, have graduated from high school, obtained a general education certificate, or received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces. Furthermore, a recipient of DACA status must not have been convicted of a felony offense, a significant misdemeanor offense, multiple misdemeanor offenses, or otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety; and

WHEREAS, In October 2022, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit partially affirmed a Southern District of Texas decision in *Texas et al. v. United States et al.* finding DACA unlawful, and that President Barack Obama exceeded his authority when he created DACA in 2012. The court preserved a previously issued partial stay and remanded the case back to the district court to review the Final Rule published by the Department of Homeland Security; and

WHEREAS, Beginning on October 31, 2022, under the Final Rule and pending further litigation, the Department of Homeland Security can continue to grant or deny renewal DACA requests but is prohibited from granting initial DACA requests; and

WHEREAS, In 2022, approximately 1,161,000 people (known as Dreamers) were eligible for protection under DACA. Only approximately 589,660 received DACA status; and

WHEREAS, The future of DACA as a whole is uncertain pending the resolution of the issues remanded back to the Southern District of Texas and further legal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, DACA recipients are involved in their communities and contribute to their states’ economic and societal success, and the U.S. States rely on DACA recipients to fill in various labor gaps across many industries. Approximately 20,000 DACA recipients are employed as teachers, and approximately 34,000 are healthcare workers; and

WHEREAS, Eliminating DACA could have grave negative effects on the national economy. For example, there would be a loss of \$280 billion in the nation's gross domestic product (GDP), \$33.1 billion would be lost in Social Security contributions, and \$7.7 billion in Medicare contributions would be forfeited; and

WHEREAS, In February 2023, the Dream Act of 2023 was introduced in the United States Senate. If passed, the Act would establish a process for Dreamers who qualify to apply for conditional legal status and eventually become citizens.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support the passage of the Dream Act of 2023.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for the reversal of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit's decision affirming *Texas et al. v. United States of America et al.*

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

1. *Advocacy for Veterans Justice Resources with Cases in Family and Children's Court/Dependency Court*

WHEREAS, The Veterans Treatment Courts provide wrap-around social services, a liaison, and case managers for veterans but only assist veterans that have a criminal charge in combination with a substance abuse problem or a mental health challenge; and

WHEREAS, Many military families and veterans have complained that officers and representatives of the Family and Children's courts are not familiar with circumstances surrounding military personnel and ultimately treat veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) or service-connected injuries the same as convicted criminals although there are no criminal charges; and

WHEREAS, Veterans in Family Law Court do not have that same wrap-around support services because they do not fall within the 1170.9 Penal Code Decision Map which provide judicial officers with the option of sentencing military veterans to treatment instead of prison or jail if they have been convicted of certain classes of crimes, as long as the court finds that the defendant may be suffering from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, PTSD, substance abuse, or mental health problems as a result of their service in the United States military; and

WHEREAS, Veterans should not have to commit a crime to receive wrap-around social and medical service support as they too are Justice Involved and in need of support; and

WHEREAS, Unemployed veterans with cases in Family Law court are required to report their VA Compensation as income thereby becoming ineligible for legal aid and causing veterans to pay attorney fees in Family Law court plus all other associated court costs which leads to increased financial ruin, homelessness, and family separation; and

WHEREAS, This is a national issue among veterans as documented in the Women Veterans Report titled "Women Veterans: The Journey Ahead" by Sigma Health Consulting showing that the highest unmet need among women veterans was Family Reconciliation and the risk of youth protection services getting involved and losing custody of their; and

WHEREAS, Veterans with limited income or the only income is United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Disability Compensation must decide to pay various court costs to fight for their children or pay rent as they are unable to do both. These stresses and other social determinants directly correlate to increasing rates of veteran suicide and homelessness. 13,564 veterans are homeless, and the suicide rate for veterans in 2020 was 57.3 % greater than for non-veteran adults. (source: National Veterans Suicide Prevention Annual Report 2022); and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Veterans Justice Outreach Programs is to identify Justice-Involved Veterans and contact them through outreach to facilitate access to VA services at the earliest possible point by building and maintaining partnerships between the VA and key elements of the justice system; and

WHEREAS, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists at every VA medical center have provided outreach to Justice-Involved Veterans in various settings, including jails and courts in over 600 Veterans Treatment Courts and other Veteran-focused court programs across the U.S except Family Law Court where veterans do not have a criminal charge nor conviction.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP will work to support amendments to this program to allow veterans that have not committed a crime to qualify for assistance with Family

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Reconciliation in Family Law court and provide the same wrap-around support as those charged with a crime.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP work with the US Congress, the Department of Defense and the White House to advocate for the expansion of the Veterans Justice Outreach Program to include Justice Involved Veterans that do not have criminal charges pending but are still in need of the same assistance in Civil Courts, such as in the Family Law court and Children's Court.

2. *Supporting Exoneration of the Port Chicago 50*

WHEREAS, The Port Chicago disaster was a deadly munitions explosion that occurred on July 17, 1944, at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Port Chicago, California, and munitions were detonated while being loaded onto a cargo vessel bound for the Pacific Theater of Operations; and

WHEREAS, This incident killed 320 sailors and civilians and injured 390 others, of which approximately two-thirds were enlisted African-American sailors; and

WHEREAS, A Naval Court of Inquiry report released days after the disaster revealed competition and criminalized loading practices were encouraged prior to the explosions, ("Instructions were in effect on 17 July 1944 that were to be followed in principle and must be followed in detail. Violations of some of these regulations occurred."); and

WHEREAS, Less than a month later, the surviving African-American sailors were ordered to return to loading munitions without improvements to safety conditions and 258 servicemen refused, an act which later became known as the Port Chicago Mutiny; and

WHEREAS, Fifty of the sailors, labeled as the "Port Chicago 50", were convicted of mutiny and sentenced to 15 years of prison and hard labor, and dishonorably discharged from the Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, Forty-seven of the 50 were released from prison in January 1946 with the remaining three sailors serving additional months in prison; and

WHEREAS, During and after the trial, questions were raised about the fairness and legality of the court-martial proceedings and owing to public pressure, the United States Navy reconvened the courts-martial board in 1945 wherein the court affirmed the previous guilty verdict of the convicted sailors; and

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WHEREAS, Port Chicago was a racially segregated military unit, and African-American sailors, were denied the opportunity to perform or be trained in combat roles and relegated to the dangerous task of moving munitions; and

WHEREAS, Thurgood Marshall, then the Chief Special Counsel for the NAACP, visited California to observe the Chicago 50 trial and stated, "This is not an individual case," "This is not 50 men on trial for mutiny. This is the Navy on trial for its whole vicious policy toward Negroes;" and

WHEREAS, Widespread publicity surrounding the case and other race-related Navy protests of 1944 – 45 led the Navy to change its munitions handling practices and initiated the process of desegregating its forces beginning in February 1946; and

WHEREAS, During the 1999 – the NAACP National Convention called on the President of the United States to pardon the Port Chicago 50 survivors, restore their benefits, and award them and their widows; and

WHEREAS, In 1999, with all but two of the fifty sailors deceased, advocates including state and federal lawmakers, veterans' groups, and the NAACP successfully advocated for a presidential pardon for Port Chicago 50 sailor Freddie Meeks; and

WHEREAS, Freddie Meeks accepted the presidential pardon in an effort to keep the shine light on the injustices experienced by African American Servicemen serving in World War II, federal workers' rights, and the history of Port Chicago in the public view, and his acceptance had no official impact on the records of the other 49 sailors; and

WHEREAS, In 2016, the NAACP demanded that the remaining Sailors and their dependents be compensated for lost wages and benefits and they be given an honorable discharge and a full pardon; and

WHEREAS, In June 2021, the East Bay Regional Park District board of directors unanimously renamed a 2,540-acre park in Concord, California the Thurgood Marshall Regional Park – Home of the Port Chicago 50 to honor the brave sailors of Port Chicago who risked their lives standing up against racial discrimination and unsafe working conditions, and NAACP chief special counsel Thurgood Marshall for his advocacy work on their behalf which was instrumental in desegregating the U.S. Navy, the first branch of the military to officially integrate; and

WHEREAS, In August 2022, California Senate Joint Resolution 15 called on the President of the United States of America and the United States Congress to "take action to restore honor to

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the Sailors unjustly blamed for, and the Sailors convicted of mutiny following, the disaster at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in Concord, California during World War II and to rectify any mistreatment by the military of those Sailors, including the full exoneration of those who were convicted at court-martial."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms the 2016 resolution and calls upon the Secretary of the Navy to exonerate the Port Chicago 50 of any wrongdoings based on racial mistreatment.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon the Secretary of the Navy to restore the Port Chicago 50 sailors to honorable duty status and award their dependents due compensation and benefits.

VOTING RIGHTS

1. *In Support of Voting Rights and Reaffirmation of 2022 Resolution*

WHEREAS, The Black American vote is instrumental to secure democracy for all Americans and recent elections have seen historically high turnout from Black voters; and

WHEREAS, In response to the high turnout from Black voters, numerous state legislatures have proposed and/or passed voter suppression laws that, among other things, make it more difficult to register voters, to vote by mail or drop box, to transport voters to the polls, to vote in person, and to provide food and water to voters waiting in lines at the polls; and

WHEREAS, Also in response to the high turnout of Black voters, various state legislatures have proposed and/or passed voter suppression laws which make it easier to challenge ballots already cast, to invalidate ballots, and to overturn or otherwise discard election results that reflect the will of Black voters; and

WHEREAS These Anti-Black and anti-equity measures will make it harder for Black Americans and underserved communities to fully participate in future elections; and

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WHEREAS, Such legislative actions are direct attacks on democracy, and are specifically targeted towards voters of color to prevent Black voters from exercising their democratic rights and to ensure minority rule over a growing diverse majority population; and

WHEREAS, Any claim that such legislation serves any legitimate purpose or increases the integrity of elections is baseless and disingenuous.

WHEREAS, The work is not over for the current Administration or for Congress. Even as Black people across America endure the collective and accumulated trauma of Black deaths, lives lost to police-involved violence, and conservative anti-Democratic efforts to criminalize our right to protest, block measures to reshape policing, and enact modern-day poll taxes that threaten our vote and our jobs; and

WHEREAS, Election officials across this country and of every party have attested that the 2020 election was one of the most secure in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, The continued operation of a robust democracy must be secured through adopting a set of reforms designed to promote safe and accessible elections including the following:

- The United States Senate must restore Voting Rights Act by passing the John Lewis Freedom To Vote Rights Act – to protect voters from racial discrimination, voter suppression, misinformation and disinformation and the attacks and roll backs on voting rights in Republican State Legislatures across the country.
- The John Lewis Freedom to Vote act has broad bi-partisan support by 70% of Americans. Key provisions include:
 - Making Election Day a federal holiday so working Americans can more easily vote;
 - Creating a nationwide voter ID requirement;
 - Requiring 15 days of early voting and vote-by-mail to give voters more options and reduce lines at voting locations;
 - Ensuring every ballot has a paper trail, and every voter can track their mail-in-ballot;
 - Promoting and funding strong, state-run audits to protect democracy and election integrity;
 - Allowing same-day voter registration for American citizens with proper identification and making it a felony to lie about your identity;
 - Fully support automatic restoration of voting rights for returning citizens; and

WHEREAS, Reforms passed in several states due to the COVID-19 pandemic enhanced and protected voting through the adoption of measures that include:

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- to make voting accessible, automatic and same day registration and the use of paper ballots instead of touchscreen machines, in order to reduce the spread of #COVID-19;
- No-fault absentee voting (Mail-In Voting and ballot drop offs) that should be made available in every state;
- Appropriate resources and safe administration with sufficient precincts, machines and poll workers to match the number of eligible voters;
- Early voting should be championed and supported across all states with a minimum of two weeks guaranteed including weekends. This should also include expanded voting hours and curbside voting;
- Measures to ensure the safety of poll workers; and

WHEREAS, The NAACP supports the efforts of local Black communities in adopting policies that enhance democracy and the election of the officials of choice, including options such as Rank Choice Voting (RCV) where it may be appropriate and fair, under the following conditions:

- Adequate funding for timely voter education and technical support on the process of RCV;
- Statewide and/or Local Election Boards or Supervisor Elections must implement an appropriate timeline that includes voter education on the implementation process for RCV;
- Existing poll workers should not be pushed out due to technical expertise and appropriate trainings should be provided to all poll workers to properly assist voters during RCV;
- NAACP units have the option to support or not support RCV in their locality based on the existing conditions for RCV; the National NAACP will continue to monitor and assess the outcomes and impact of RCV on Black voters during the 2023 election cycle;
- The National NAACP Campaigns Department will conduct/commission research on RCV as needed to understand the trends and impact on RCV will have on Black and Brown voters and candidates. If research is needed it will be a resource for units to make informed decisions on RCV. Research can and will be shared with federal, state, and local lawmakers to help with policy decisions on RCV; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands the United States Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act that will provide adequate funding and resources to state and local jurisdictions to improve and provide safe, secure and effective voting systems and that no excuse mail-in voting be secured in every state and territory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly demands elected officials of all political parties at the national, state and local levels to work together to immediately cease passing

2023 RESOLUTIONS

laws e that restrict democratic rights and access to the ballot, repeal restrictive election laws already passed, and enact policies to promote access to the vote.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly demands elected officials of all political parties and all levels of government to appoint federal, state and local election officials and judges who will protect the health of every voter and ensure the opportunity to cast a free and unfettered ballot and have their vote counted.

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EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

1. *The NAACP Urges the United States Senate to Bring Crucial Military Leader Nominations and Promotions to the Floor of the United States Senate to be Voted on Immediately*

WHEREAS, since February 2023, United States Senator Tommy Tuberville (AL) has effectively staged an unprecedented blockade of the United States Senate’s consideration of the nominations and promotions of more than two hundred sixty (260) senior military officers; and

WHEREAS, the number of vacant United States military positions awaiting confirmation by the United States Senate include the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commandant of the United States Marine Corp, the Vice Chief of Staff of the of the Air Force, and many other general and flag officers, with the potential increase in unconfirmed positions to more than six hundred fifty (650) by the end of 2023; and

WHEREAS, Senator Tuberville began blocking confirmations of high-ranking generals, admirals, and other nominations in an attempt to force a change in the United States military’s abortion policies – those policies, which ensure that all United States troops have access to reproductive healthcare, were enacted by United States Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin in October 2022, following the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization* (2022), the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned *Roe v. Wade* (1973), the case that nationally recognized a woman’s reproductive rights; and

WHEREAS, Secretary Austin has made it abundantly clear that the ongoing hold on senior military promotions is “unprecedented in its scale and scope” and poses a “clear risk” to the military’s ability to function properly, adding in a four-page, May 5, 2023 letter to the Chair of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel, Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA), “The longer that this hold persists, the greater the risk the United States military runs in every theater, every domain, and every service”; and

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WHEREAS, according to Secretary Austin, Tuberville's hold will affect 64 three-star and four-star positions due to rotate in the next 120 days, including the top officers of the Army, Navy, and Marine Corp, as well as the heads of United States Northern Command and United States Cyber Command, who serves as the Director of the National Security Agency; and

WHEREAS, upon reviewing the pool of nominees who have been through the first stages of the vetting process and who now awaiting the opportunity to be considered by the full United States Senate, there has never been a more diverse group of high-level nominees considered in the same given year.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP endorses and supports the appointment of U.S. Air Force General Charles Q. Brown Jr., who presently is serving as Chief of Staff of the Air Force, to the position of Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP endorses and supports the appointment of Tanya J. Bradsher, who is presently serving as Chief of Staff at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, to the position of Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: and

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP strongly supports and urges the immediate end to the unprecedented blockade staged by Alabama Senator Tommy Tuberville in the United States Senate, and the expedition of the full consideration of the nominations and promotions of the more than 260 senior military officers that have been pending before the United States Senate since February 2023.

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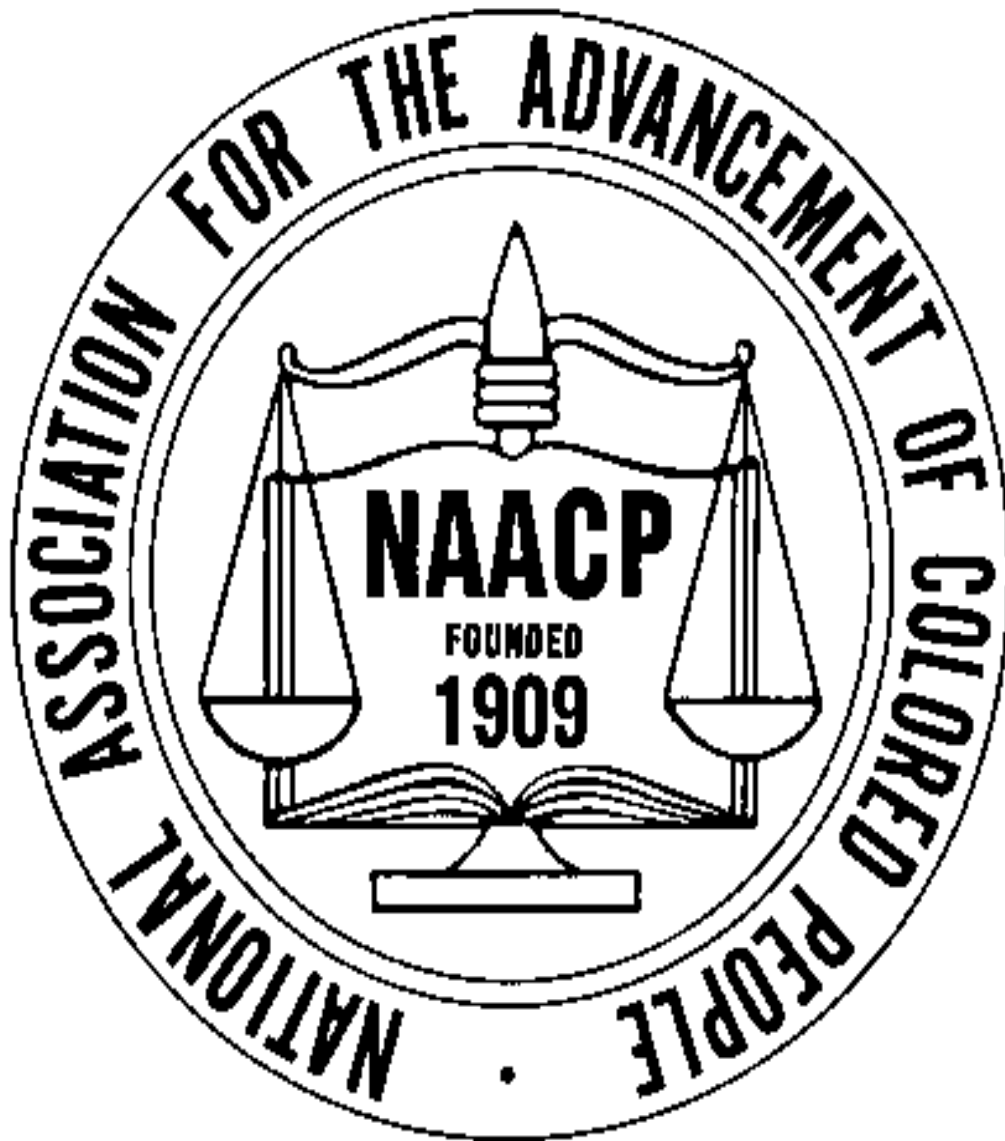
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