

# **NAACP<sup>®</sup>** **RESOLUTIONS**

## **2006**

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

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 I. <u>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT</u>	
1. <u>NAACP Advocates the Presidential Medal of Freedom be Presented to the Families of James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman</u>	

**WHEREAS**, during the 1964 Freedom Summer a campaign for Black voter registration was organized by young people to register voters in the Deep South: and

**WHEREAS**, while civil rights activists and Congress of Racial Equality members James Chaney, Michael Schwerner and Andrew Goodman were murdered in Mississippi, while working to secure the voting rights of African Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, other courageous individuals sought to end segregation throughout the South, endured harassment, arrests, beatings and death; and

**WHEREAS**, they sought through their efforts to promote equality and justice through non-violent strategies; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP advocate that these men be awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for their sacrifice.

2. **In Support of Elected Congressional Representatives with Full Voting Rights for all Citizens of the United States, Including Residents of the District of Columbia**

**WHEREAS**, our nation is founded on the principles of 'one person, one vote' and government by the consent of the governed; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides all citizens of the United States of America with the guarantee of the equal protection of the laws, and gives Congress the power to enforce this guarantee; and

**WHEREAS**, over 500,000 people living in the District of Columbia, the capital of our democratic Nation, are denied Congressional Representatives in the U.S. Senate and only one representative in the U.S. House of Representatives with no voting powers; and

**WHEREAS**, District of Columbia residents share all the responsibilities of American citizenship, including the payment of over \$3 billion annually in federal income taxes, but are denied equal civil rights with their fellow Americans living in the states; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States has found the United States to be in violation of international human rights law for its disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents; and

**WHEREAS**, national polling data shows that most Americans are unaware of the disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents, and that there are serious efforts in many states to re-enfranchise non-citizen immigrants permitting them voting rights in national, state and local elections.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP, through its national, regional and local officers and its members will work to better raise awareness and educate

the American citizenry about this injustice and to take action towards a solution; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP re-affirms its support for full voting representation for the residents of the District of Columbia by endorsing Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Senator Joseph Lieberman's "No Taxation Without Representation Act" (H.R. 398 and S. 195, respectively) and other similar solutions for full voting representation for District of Columbia residents; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, in order to ensure bipartisan support in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate for the "No Taxation Without Representation Act," we strongly encourage NAACP members to contact their members of Congress and their Senators to ask them to be a co-sponsor of this important legislation.

**2(a). Re-affirming Support of Full Voting for all Citizens of the United States, Including the Residents of the District of Columbia**  
Re-affirming 2004 Policy

**WHEREAS**, over half a million people living in the District of Columbia, capital of our democratic nation, are denied voting representation in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives; and

**WHEREAS**, District of Columbia residents are denied local governmental autonomy and must submit their local budget for approval to the U.S. Congress in which they have no voting representation; and

**WHEREAS**, District of Columbia residents pay over \$3 billion annually in federal income taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, our nation is founded on the principles of "one person, one vote" and government by the consent of the governed, and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights of the Organization of American States has found the United States to be in violation of international human rights law for its disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Article I, Section B of the U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power, "To exercise exclusive legislation in all cases whatsoever, over such District...as may...become the seat of the government of the United States, and To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers;" and

**WHEREAS**, the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides all citizens of the United States of America with the guarantee of the equal protection

of the laws, and gives Congress the power to enforce such guarantee; and

**WHEREAS**, there are serious efforts in many states to re-enfranchise non-citizen immigrants permitting them voting rights in national, state and local elections; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP affirms its support for full voting representation for the residents of the District of Columbia by endorsing Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Senator Joseph Lieberman's "No Taxation Without Representation Act" (H.R. 1285 and S. 617, respectively) and other similar solutions for full voting representation for District of Columbia residents; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in order to ensure bipartisan support in the U.S. House and U.S. Senate for the "No Taxation Without Representation Act," the NAACP strongly encourage our members to contact their members of Congress and their Senators to ask them to be co-sponsors of this important legislation; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that with national polling data showing that most Americans are unaware of the disenfranchisement of District of Columbia residents, and that when informed about supporting voting rights, the NAACP through its national, regional and local offices and its members will work to better raise awareness and educate the American citizenry about this injustice and to take action towards a solution.

**2(b). Home Rule**  
Reaffirming 1997 Policy

**WHEREAS**, the struggle for home rule in Washington, DC has been long fought and hard fought, and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has stood with the citizens of Washington, DC for decades in this struggle, and

**WHEREAS**, despite this long-standing solidarity from the NAACP, the citizens of Washington, DC are still the only citizens of a national capital in the world to have no representation whatsoever to their national legislature, and

**WHEREAS**, the annual cost to the citizens of Washington, DC for the federal presence and the cost of services rendered by Washington, DC is \$3 billion annually, and

**WHEREAS**, the citizens continue to pay more per capita in federal income tax than 49 other states, and pay for more than 80% of the local budget with an annual federal payment from Congress that is only 1/6 of the \$3 billion cost of the

federal presence and services rendered to the federal government by Washington, DC; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its support for home rule and full self-determination for the citizens of Washington, DC; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP shall encourage its local branches to educate their members and the community at large on issues concerning Washington, DC; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP branches shall solicit support from their respective members of Congress for maintaining home rule and realizing full self-determination for the citizens of Washington, DC and shall hold their respective members of Congress accountable in this regard.

3. **Greater Access to the Ballot Through Vote-By-Mail and Other Technologies**

**WHEREAS**, the 15th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants all citizens the right to vote; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP believes that all Americans have the right to an electoral process that is accessible and accountable; and

**WHEREAS**, the current U.S. electoral system is plagued by barriers such as voter fraud, faulty machinery and time restrictions that impede certain citizens from participating in local, state, and federal elections; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is firmly committed to advocating for electoral policies that address the disparities that exist in voter registration, voter education, and election protection in order to ensure that all eligible voters have an opportunity to cast informed ballots in local, state, and federal elections and for those ballots to be accurately counted; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP acknowledges that technology has opened vast new corridors for election reform; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP supports an approach to election reform that calls for improvements in election administration for poll-site voting and acknowledges the need to develop, implement, and support innovative and accessible mechanisms that enable voters to cast their ballots; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP recognizes the need to safeguard election reform with strategies and practices that provide greater accessibility to the electoral process while preserving the procedural integrity of each ballot; now



**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will develop cutting edge strategies and best practices for maximizing voter participation in a manner that is accessible and beneficial for all; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP supports policies that would facilitate the implementation of access-driven voting strategies and technological advancements in voting that are proven to be effective and secure ways of casting and counting votes; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will continue to promote a far-reaching effort that is focused on increasing voter participation and election protection.

## **II. EDUCATION**

### **1. Reaffirming Commitment to Quality Education, Proactive Advocacy, and Equitable Public School Funding**

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP recognizes that resource inequities continue to plague public education resulting in disparities along race and class lines in such areas as limited instructional supports, poor school facilities, poor quality and quantity of textbooks and curricular materials, and limited access to challenging and rigorous classes; and

**WHEREAS**, teacher quality remains a key factor in ensuring academic success for all students and that most high-poverty and high-minority school districts have the least experienced teachers; and

**WHEREAS**, early childhood preparation directly impacts a child's future educational achievement, literacy, and emotional development; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing class sizes results in educational gains for disadvantaged students; and

**WHEREAS**, limited access to technology has perpetuated disparities in race and class and those disparities have far-reaching effects on the ability of minority students to participate meaningfully in a rapidly changing and technologically advanced national and international economy; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP understands that the reliance on high-stakes testing as the primary determinant of student academic ability is pedagogically questionable and ultimately harmful to the full academic development of students; and

**WHEREAS**, high school dropout rates for minority students remains alarmingly high while graduation rates remain low; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP believes that parental involvement is a critical factor in a child's academic success; and

**WHEREAS**, special education far too often results in inappropriate labeling and overly restrictive placement of minority students; and

**WHEREAS**, suspension and expulsion rates in American public schools have been shown to disproportionately affect students of color, which raises questions and concerns about the fairness and the impact of these actions taken against minority students; and

**WHEREAS**, persistent patterns of concentrated poverty results in re-segregation trends in public education; and

**WHEREAS**, students who are English Language Learners continue to grow dramatically in number, and inadequate programs in schools designed to help these students become English language proficient, ultimately hurt their overall academic success; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP recognizes the continuing need to increase public awareness about persistent disparities in public education combined with innovative and aggressive advocacy strategies; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the NAACP strongly reaffirms its commitment to the 2001 "Call for Action in Education;" and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reiterates its previous call for constructive corrections to the federal "No Child Left Behind" law to include, eliminating the over-emphasis on standardized testing, broadening curriculum and instruction to focus on rich academic learning as opposed to test preparation; adequately funding the mandates of the law, eliminating loopholes which allow for the exclusion of low-scoring students in order to boost reported testing results, and holding states and localities accountable for making the systemic changes that improve student achievement; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP directs all of its state conferences and local units within the next twelve months, to build parent involvement and partnerships with local community based organizations, fraternal entities, churches, neighborhood associations, and other local groups, for the purpose of effecting the principles of the "Call for Action in Education" within local schools.

**1(a). NAACP Calls for Equity in Public Education**  
Reaffirming 2001 Policy

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in Brown v. Board of Education was a call for equity in public education; and

**WHEREAS**, forty-seven years after the Brown decision, African American students are more likely than white students to attend racially segregated public schools; more likely to be taught in schools with fewer resources, inadequate facilities, and uncertified teachers more likely than white students to be placed in special education classes, suspended or expelled; to drop-out and are under-represented in gifted and talented and advanced placement (AP) courses; and

**WHEREAS**, all NAACP education committees serve as partners in public education and conduits for rekindling the fire for excellence in education across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, by September 2001, all NAACP units are asked to appoint a chair and a vice-chair of their education committee and to report the names of these individuals to the NAACP Education Department; that by September 2001, all branches, education and political action committees are being asked to make arrangements for an NAACP representative to be present at each local school board meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, all NAACP State Conference Education Committees working in conjunction with its Political Action Committee to create synergy, shall support and advocate for effective state educational programs; and

**WHEREAS**, there is presently no entity effectively requiring federal and state legislatures and school boards to ensure that students have available to them the necessary and equitable resources in order to hold them accountable in the classroom; and

**WHEREAS**, the objective of the NAACP's education advocacy agenda is to prevent racial discrimination in education programs and services by promoting an equal education opportunity agenda; now

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that all NAACP State Conference Education Committees in conjunction with its political action committees develop legislative or political empowerment initiatives to ensure education as a fundamental right in their respective states; that the NAACP National Education Department in conjunction with the Washington Bureau, Office of the General Counsel and Department of Branch and Field Services shall support and advocate for federal legislation and laws to ensure education as a fundamental right in America and support and advocate for full funding of effective federal education programs; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that as part of the 2001 National Day of Education, on November 16, 2001, the education committees of all units shall present to the appropriate education entity in its their respective jurisdiction, a **"Call for Action"**

requesting the development of a specific equity plan by March 2002 to ensure equity and to close the achievement gap in the American educational system. Each NAACP department or unit shall report to the appropriate education entity as follows: The National Education Department shall report to the U.S. President and Secretary of Education; the State Conference Education Committee shall report to the Governor and State Superintendent; the Branch Education Committee shall report to the School Board and Superintendent and the College Chapter Education Committee shall report to the Board of Trustees and President. The College Chapter **“Call to Action”** shall address issues related to minority recruitment, retention and graduation. All NAACP Youth Councils shall present to its state legislative and local school boards for passage, a **“Student Education Bill of Rights.”** The progress of the submitted equity plan shall be re-evaluated by the education committee and political action committee on each National Day of Education.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following tasks be completed:

- That by September 2002, all branch education committees shall make quarterly arrangements to enter its local schools to perform “site visits” observing and monitoring the resources and quality of education provided to the students;
- That by August 2002, each State Conference Education Committee shall initiate a scheduled meeting of all education chairpersons in their respective States;
- That by January 2003, Education Committees of all NAACP units shall implement an **“Education Equity Report Card”** designed by the NAACP Education Department and Education Committee of the Board of Directors; and
- That by March 2003, all data collected from the implementation of the State, County, College/University Education Equity Report Cards should be forwarded to the NAACP Education Department.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that by May 2004, during the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education, the National Education Department shall use the aforementioned data to produce a report on the “State of Education for Black Students in America.”

## 2. **Addressing Military Disclosure for High School Students**

**WHEREAS**, public high school students have expressed concerns that public school systems might be forced under the threat of sanction or loss of federal funding to release personal information to U.S. Military recruiters without proper authorization from students or their parents; and

**WHEREAS**, applicable laws and regulations give students the right to opt-out from disclosure of information to military recruiters; and

**WHEREAS**, laws and regulations provide that for those students who do not opt-out, the only information that may be disclosed to military recruiters is the student's name, address and listed phone number; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP urges the Department of Education to ensure that all schools abide strictly by the laws and regulations limiting or prohibiting disclosure of information concerning high school students to the U.S. Military recruiters; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that schools promptly notify parents whenever they send the name of a student to the Department of Defense; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that local and state, NAACP units implement an awareness program teaching families (including legal guardians and/or whom ever is eligible to act) how to have their students opt-out of the program.

### **III. HEALTH**

#### **1. Health Screening Test in the Prisons Entering and Exiting**

**WHEREAS**, the HIV/AIDS infection rate among African American women increased to an annual rate of 55 per 100,000 between 2000 and 2003 (infection rate nearly 19 times higher than that for non-Hispanic White women); and

**WHEREAS**, the infection rate for African American men exceeds 100 per 100,000 (in contrast to less than 15 per 100,000 among non-Hispanic White men); and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans account for over half of reported AIDS cases, despite accounting for only 12% of the overall population; and

**WHEREAS**, AIDS infection rates increased the most among demographic groups who experienced the largest increase in rates of incarceration; and

**WHEREAS**, the prison system contains perhaps the highest concentration of HIV infection in this country, as roughly one quarter of all those living with HIV in the U.S. passed through a correctional facility; and

**WHEREAS**, existing laws set forth circumstances under which testing an inmate for the HIV virus may be required upon request by certain peace officers or inmates in specified circumstances; and

**WHEREAS**, many persons committed to the state prisons are exposed to communicable diseases and contagious illnesses while incarcerated; and

**WHEREAS**, often the exposure to an illness or disease is not known until the inmate is released on parole, which means that the person has unknowingly transported the illness or disease out into the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the current practice of releasing inmates from prison into society without information about their health status creates a serious public health risk; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP advocate on the federal, state and local levels for the design of a health program that will require that every person convicted and committed to any adult or juvenile correctional institution, local jail or state or federal prison be given a health screening to include screening for communicable and infectious diseases when entering and 7–14 days prior to being released from the facility; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP advocate for the Chief Medical Officer to notify the inmate within 7 days upon receiving positive results and that those inmates testing positive be required to receive treatment as part of his or her sentence, probation or parole.

2. **Health Insurance Payers Should Allow True Access to Prescription Drugs that are Proven to be Effective in African American Patients**

**WHEREAS**, certain prescription drug treatments have been identified to substantially benefit the health of African Americans suffering from chronic conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, prescription drug therapies for chronic conditions have the potential to be cost-effective, saving the health system substantial money because of fewer or avoided hospitalizations; and

**WHEREAS**, non-preferred or non-formulary prescription drugs require the highest co-payment amount; preferred or formulary drugs require a lower co-payment amount; and generic drugs require the lowest co-payment to patients; and

**WHEREAS**, prescription drugs that have been proven to effective in African American patients currently require co-payment amounts that have effectively rendered the treatments financially inaccessible or create financial hardships for many prospective Black patients; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Tracking Study Household Survey (2003), found that 18.3% of U.S. Adults with at least one chronic condition did not purchase prescribed medication because of cost concerns; and

**WHEREAS**, placement of a prescription drug therapy that has the potential to significantly improve the health of African Americans as a non-preferred/non-formulary prescription makes the treatment financially inaccessible to many of the patients who stand to benefit from the drug; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial burden placed on patients who attempt to gain access to prescriptions drugs that have been proven to be effective yet are unaffordable, represents yet another significant barrier to access to quality medical care for Minority Americans;

**WHEREAS**, those models of prescription drug access which prioritize cost containment at the expense of patient care pose a significant threat to communities of color and the low-income; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP advocate and urge all health insurance payers to ensure patient access to the highest quality, lowest cost prescription drug therapy possible, specifically those prescription drugs that have the potential to reduce disparities for African Americans; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP advocate that drugs and other treatments that have been shown to be effective solely in African Americans that these drugs and treatments be made available for free or, for those with insurance, with no co-pay to African Americans and to other minority groups.

3. **Reducing Health Disparities: A Socio-Scientific Representation of African-Americans in Research**

**Concur as amended**

**WHEREAS**, African-Americans disproportionately suffer from negative health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, factors such as geographical/neighborhood disparities, socio-economic disparities, and discrimination in health care are an insufficient proxy for race; and

**WHEREAS**, differences in health outcomes between African-Americans and other races are often misclassified as genetic and socio-economic variations; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has consistently advocated for health initiatives that reduce health disparities among African-Americans; now

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call on health policy-makers and grant-makers to support research that acknowledges or explains the complex interaction among race and the biological and social determinants of health, and oppose research that refuses to acknowledge or explain the complex interaction among race and the biological and social determinants of health.

**4. Medicaid Resolution**

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid provides health insurance coverage to millions of Americans and is essential for the continuation of reasonable health care for these citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, 24.8% of African Americans rely on Medicaid to obtain access to health care; and

**WHEREAS**, 23% of non-elderly Medicaid enrollees are African American; and

**WHEREAS**, diverse advocacy efforts are needed to ensure that we can maintain and expand this very vital safety net; and

**WHEREAS**, several states have submitted Medicaid waivers that have the potential to drastically reduce the number of racial and ethnic minorities who are covered under their Medicaid programs and some states have already made drastic cuts; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP encourages fully funding this much need program as a means to ensure access to high-quality affordable healthcare; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP stands opposed to further cuts and/or any programmatic changes that could limit access to critical health care services for Medicaid beneficiaries; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls for the Federal and State governments to use as an eligibility criteria nothing less than 200% of the federal poverty line; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its position that every American deserves excellent universal healthcare: and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will work for legislative protection of the existing Medicaid program and advocate for a budget that is inclusive of the needs of the Americans that rely on Medicaid for health insurance coverage.

**4(a). Expressing Concern for the Disparate Health Care Treatment Afforded to African Americans**  
Reaffirming 2003 Policy



**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress authorized the study of disparities in the health care treatment system; and

**WHEREAS**, a study was undertaken by the National Institute of Medicines that found that minorities were receiving substandard health care in comparison the comparable white citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, these disparities existed regardless of income or insurance coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, the overwhelming evidence suggested by the study demonstrated that African-Americans received substandard health care; and

**WHEREAS**, this substandard health care has led to higher death rates for African Americans in the categories of HIV/AIDS, cancer and heart disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the study concluded that bias and stereotyping contributed to racial and ethnic disparities in the health care system; and

**WHEREAS**, minorities are more likely to receive less desirable surgical procedures, such as amputations at a rate up to 3.6 times greater than their white Medicare peers; and

**WHEREAS**, patient education and more racial and ethnic minority health care professionals will serve to ameliorate systematic disparities in the health care industry; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that all local NAACP units collaborate with local medical care centers and treatment facilities to develop patient education programs and to promote enhanced recruitment and retention of African American health care providers; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP re-affirms its 2002 resolution "Equity in Health Care & Safety" at its 2003 Convention in Miami, Florida.

**5. For Units to Hold Hearings on Infant Mortality Rates**

**WHEREAS**, it has been reported that babies of African descent have a higher mortality rate than white infants; and

**WHEREAS**, the reasons for the high infant mortality rates in this nation have not been conclusively identified; and

**WHEREAS**, experts feel that factors contributing to high black infant mortality rate may include a number of causes such as unrecognized poverty; lack of education

for the parents; less prenatal care than whites; and high risk factors associated with living in improvised communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP can convene public forums to receive testimony from health care professionals, public health officials, and black parents concerning infant mortality; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National NAACP Health Committee established a special unit to work with state conferences and local units to receive testimony; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its current policies on care of women and children; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP uses information to develop recommendations for resolving the problem of high infant mortality of African American and other minority babies in this country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Federal and State governments are called upon to reauthorize and fully fund SCHIP programs in all states; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that these units submit this information to the National office for review and to make recommendations to Congress for resolving the problem of high infant mortality for African American babies in this nation and throughout other minority communities.

**5(a). Regarding Health Care for All (Universal Health Care)**  
Reaffirming 2005 Policy

**WHEREAS**, the health care in the nation continues to worsen as more than 45 million Americans are without health care coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, health care costs are rising exponentially and more Americans than ever are uninsured; and

**WHEREAS**, one of every six Americans under age 65 is uninsured; one out of every three Hispanics and one out of every five African Americans have no insurance; and

**WHEREAS**, the most uninsured people in America are African Americans and Latinos who also have more health problems and die younger; and

**WHEREAS**, more and more employers are reducing or eliminating dependant health care coverage for active workers and retirees, dropping health care coverage entirely, and shifting health care costs to employees; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of children are without insurance and those that do have health insurance are finding rising premiums, co-payments and deductibles more and more unaffordable; and

**WHEREAS**, children are negatively affected by the crisis in health care physically, mentally, emotionally and academically as the learning ability of children whose quality of life has been severely compromised; and

**WHEREAS**, many insurers are eliminating or charging higher premiums for critical coverage such as prenatal and maternity coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans are dying from preventable and curable diseases, often because of lack of preventive care and early treatment; and

**WHEREAS**, the infant death rate for African Americans is 2.5 times as high as that of whites, and African Americans have a 30 percent greater chance of dying from preventable heart disease than whites, and from diabetes at twice the rate of whites; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its position that every American deserves access to the excellent healthcare that our country provides to the wealthy and federal officials; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP is committed to working with other like-minded organizations to achieve affordable health care for all Americans

6. **Reauthorization of the Ryan White Care Act**

**WHEREAS**, Congress first passed the Ryan White CARE Act in 1990 to respond to the growing crises in communities hit hardest by the epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act is the heart of the nation's response to the domestic HIV/AIDS epidemic; and

**WHEREAS**, each year, Ryan White CARE ACT funded programs serve over 500,000 people in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Territories, providing life-saving anti-HIV medication and the medical care and support services people living with HIV/AIDS need to access and benefit from these powerful drugs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ryan White CARE Act's authorization expired on September 30, 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, according to CDC data, there are now more people living with HIV/AIDS in the U.S. than at any other time in the epidemic and more than 40,000 individuals in the U.S. are newly affected each year; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 42 to 59 percent of all people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States do not receive regular HIV Care; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2000 69% of CARE Act clients were minorities; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls upon the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act with the following provisions to the reauthorization:

1. Problem proportional funding for existing and new Title III projects to provide high-quality, community-based primary care to low-income, underserved and underinsured populations living in rural and underserved areas;
2. Creation of an "Infrastructure and Capacity Expansion Program" to provide resources to assist community-based organizations in providing high-quality medical and supportive services to rural and urban communities serving underserved minority populations. Provision of these resources would build the organizational infrastructure and HIV service capacity in underserved communities;
3. Preservation and quadrupling of the Congressional Minority AIDS Initiative to address the development, implementation and provision of high quality care by indigenous, culturally competent organizations to underserved minority individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

7. **National Call to Action to End the AIDS Epidemic in the African American Community**

**WHEREAS**, 2006 marks the 25th anniversary of the AIDS epidemic in America; and

**WHEREAS**, HIV/AIDS in the African-American community has been declared a state of emergency by the NAACP and several governmental agencies including the Congressional Black Caucus; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans comprise only 12.7% of the United States population but account for nearly 50% of the estimated 1.3 million Americans living with HIV/AIDS, over 50% of estimated new HIV/AIDS cases annually, and 51% of the people who die with AIDS; and

**WHEREAS**, Black youth account for 56% of the new HIV infections among youth; and

**WHEREAS**, Black women account for nearly 70% of new HIV infections among women; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP issues a national call to action to the entire African American community on the AIDS epidemic in Black America; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP send delegates to attend the bi-annual AIDS conference; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP reaffirms all previous resolutions on the AIDS epidemic since 1987; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP provide HIV testing and education at each of the seven regional Civil Rights Advocacy Training Institutes and the Annual Convention; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP include HIV/AIDS content in existing communication vehicles, provide HIV/AIDS training to members, and include HIV/AIDS awareness in unit programming elements.

**7(a). HIV / AIDS**  
Reaffirm 1999 Policy

**WHEREAS**, HIV/AIDS has become an epidemic among the African-American community, and the NAACP has spoken forcefully on the issue, including the adoption of Resolutions since at least 1987; and

**WHEREAS**, data from the Center for Disease and Prevention indicate that African-Americans comprise 57 percent of new HIV infections in 25 states despite accounting for only 13 percent of the total U.S. population; and

**WHEREAS**, young African Americans have an even higher rate; those aged 13 to 24 years account for 63 percent of new HIV cases between January 1994 and June 1997; and

**WHEREAS**, among female AIDS cases , heterosexual sex has surpassed drug infection as the most common route of transmission, and black women make up approximately 60 percent of all new AIDS cases reported among U.S. women, and have an overall case rate sixteen (16) times that of their white counterparts; and

**WHEREAS**, two-thirds of the new cases of pediatric AIDS striking children under thirteen (13) are black children; and

**WHEREAS**, the rate of HIV infections has dropped sharply among whites, while black Americans increasingly bear the brunt of the AIDS epidemic due to social, economic and political disparities and to a lack of education about the disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the population has been left vulnerable as prevention and health care options have been neglected; and

**WHEREAS**, prevention and treatment efforts face new obstacles as a result of these shifts, and AIDS policy must be altered to address these changes; and

**WHEREAS**, government funds to help minorities with AIDS prevention and treatment should be increased substantially; and

**WHEREAS**, African-American communities and civil rights leaders must help increase AIDS awareness; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for eliminating racial disparities in our Nation's approach to dealing with the AIDS epidemic in order to abolish the disproportionate incidences and deaths of African American and Latino communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the government and private sources alleviate the dearth of funding for minority HIV/AIDS programs; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP and branches assist in eliminating stereotypical myths surrounding AIDS; monitor AIDS services for fairness of distribution; and ensure that prevention and quality treatment programs are available to all, and that the testing of new drugs are open to all and fairly utilized by all.

**7(b). HIV / AIDS – Crisis in Africa**  
Reaffirm 1999 Policy

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP, the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States, has consistently throughout its ninety (90) years of existence sought to support the hopes and aspirations of the people of Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, the continent of Africa is now being ravaged by the overwhelming impact and burden of HIV-AIDS, the region where seventy percent (70%) of the new cases worldwide in 1998 occurred; where eighty-three percent (83%) of all AIDS deaths have occurred; where among children under fifteen (15) years of age Africa's share of new 1998 infections was nine out of ten; where ninety-five percent (95%) of all AIDS orphans worldwide now reside; where in some

countries, thirty percent (30%) of all working adults now have AIDS or carry the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, American support for Africa generally and support for combating the growing menace of HIV-AIDS on the continent has been paltry and non-responsive; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP deems the HIV-AIDS crisis in Africa so disturbing as to declare an emergency.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will utilize its network of more than 500,000 members in 2,200 Units across the United States, Japan and Germany to work with organizations providing direct assistance in Africa to support efforts to provide comprehensive services to prevent the spread of HIV and the care and treatment for those persons already infected with the AIDS virus and their children. Also, the NAACP will provide support for the general health infrastructure on the African continent; and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the NAACP's Health Committee will establish a working committee to advise the NAACP on the HIV-AIDS crisis in Africa and will include members of the Constituency for Africa, Healthcare International, and the Center for Disease Control; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will use its vast network to advocate for the expansion of American technical and monetary support for strategies to combat HIV-AIDS in Africa and will place this problem at the top of the U.S. agenda with Africa; and

**FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED**, that NAACP will work to educate its membership and the American public about Africa and about the HIV-AIDS crisis on the continent by collaborating with organizations such as the Constituency for Africa, the Center for Disease Control and professionals in all fields to hold seminars, workshops, town hall meetings and other educational activities.

**8. In Support of Guaranteed Health Care for All Veterans of the United States Armed Forces**

**WHEREAS**, one of the most essential and fundamental obligations of our government is to provide for and guarantee the care of those who defend and preserve it against its enemies; and

**WHEREAS**, veterans of the United States Armed Forces (Veterans), the citizen soldiers of our communities, provided a unique and vital service to the nation as a whole is the preservation of freedom and liberty enjoyed by all who reside within our borders; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans, many of whom are Veterans, are among the most uninsured people in America, have more health problems, die younger, and are often systematically denied the same level of services and benefits as their White counterparts; and

**WHEREAS**, the rent and ongoing war in Iraq and Afghanistan has produced increased numbers of seriously injured Veterans with brain injuries, lost of limbs, mental and post traumatic stress disorders, diseases, diabetes, and prostate cancers; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of health care in the nation continues to worsen as more than 45 million Americans are without health care coverage and thousands of Veterans are being denied access to the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and

**WHEREAS**, in early 2005 the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), the largest direct provider of health-care services in the nation, began to restrict services provided to Veterans and their families, and began to institute potentially dangerous cost-cutting measures just to make ends meet; and

**WHEREAS**, the VHA underestimated the growth rate of demand on its medical system and had to request an emergency appropriation from Congress of an additional \$1.5 billion for Veterans' health care; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP supports the principle that all Veterans must be guaranteed immediate access to the full continuum of health-care services by the government that they served to protect; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will include the topic of Guaranteed Health Care for all Veterans and their families in its annual workshops on the Concerns of Black Veterans, approved by a 2004 resolution to be held at each annual and state conference convention; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its commitment to alleviating the barriers that lead to discrimination and protecting and advancing the rights of all Veterans, including Black Veterans, Women Veterans, and Service-Disabled Veterans.

#### **IV. INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

##### **1. Protecting the Integrity of the Membership**

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is an organization of rules and regulations, policies and procedures with a written Constitution and Bylaws; and

**WHEREAS**, it is strictly prohibited to sell, distribute or disclose membership lists to any unauthorized party; and



**WHEREAS**, the NAACP finds that providing access or to make available the NAACP membership listing of State/State-Area Conferences, Units, Prison Units, Young Adult Units, College Units, Youth Council Units, Junior Youth Council Units, High School Units by Board of Directors, Officers of the NAACP, Executive Committee member(s), or person(s) or individual(s) so trusted with intent to copy or duplicate, reproduced, distribution, and sale to individual(s), Organization(s), Companies, Marketing Specialist, or telemarketing entity violates the honor and integrity of the Membership.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP finds that the aforementioned acts and practices violate the protection and integrity of the Membership and Stewardship through which it was trusted; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP shall vigorously exercise legal action(s) against any person(s) responsible for the unauthorized sale, distribution or disclosure of membership lists of any State/State-Area Conferences, Units, Prison Units, Young Adult Units, College Units, Youth Council Units, Junior Youth Council Units, High School Units by Board of Directors, Officers of the NAACP, Executive Committee Member(s), or person(s) or individual(s) so trusted for such abridgement of stewardship, trust and honor.

## **V. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **1. Support for the Federation of East Africa**

**WHEREAS**, the inter-territorial cooperation between Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika and Zanzibar was created in 1948 by the East African High Commission, creating a common external tariff, currency and postage, transportation, communication, research and education; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1967 the East African Common Services Organization was superseded by the East African Community aimed at strengthening the ties between the members through a common market, tariffs, and public services to achieve a balanced economic growth within the regions; and

**WHEREAS**, the East African community collapsed in 1972 following political differences between Presidents Jomo Kenyatta of Kenya, Idi Amin Dada of Uganda and Mwalima Julius Nyerere; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1997 Presidents of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania re-established the East Africa Community with aim of establishing common customs tariffs, regional court, legislative assembly, and eventually a political federation; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1999 the treaty to restore the East African Community was signed by the Presidents, Hon. Daniel Arap Moi, Hon. Yoweri Museveni and Hon. Benjamin Mkapa; and

**WHEREAS**, the countries of Rwanda and Burundi have applied to join the East African Community and may join in 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005 a customs union of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania was inaugurated; and

**WHEREAS**, the principle of political federation was warmly welcomed by the people of East Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, a strong Federation is only possible if it is owned by the people of East Africa themselves through effective democratic and informed participation from the beginning of the process up to the end; and

**WHEREAS**, all the Presidents of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania have reiterated their support for the principle of accelerated and fast tracking of the Federation by 2010 and single President in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is a world recognized non-governmental organization with technical expertise in civil rights, democracy development and political advocacy; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP write a letter to the Presidents of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania as well as the Secretariat of the East African Community expressing support for the East African people as they forge towards political federation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP encourage economic exchange between U.S. corporations and the Federation of East Africa; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP make efforts to meet with the Presidents of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania as well as the Secretariat of the African Union to show support for the political Federation of East Africa.

## **VI. LABOR**

### **1. Aviation**

**WHEREAS**, the field of aviation annually presents thousands of lucrative opportunities for employment and economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, only a small fraction of all Americans working as professions in the field of aviation are African American; and

**WHEREAS**, only a tiny fraction of all American businesses working in the field of aviation are African American owned and operated companies; and

**WHEREAS**, during the last six years, no appreciable gains have been made in the hiring of African Americans to work as aviation professionals or in engaging African American owned and operated companies to conduct business in the aviation field; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirm its previous resolution regarding aviation, which was adopted in 2000 and entitled, "Aviation Programs for African American Youth;" and

**BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call upon the federal government to annually issue reports on the numbers of African Americans applying for and being hired in aviation-related positions with all branches of the military and with the Federal Aviation Administration; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP annually issue a report card (similar to that issued for hotels) on the private sector of the aviation industry, specifically grading airlines on the numbers of African Americans working as pilots and in professional administration positions as well as on the numbers of contracted African American businesses.

**1(a). Aviation Programs for African American Youth**  
Reaffirm 2000 Policy

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately one hundred and twenty four thousand (124,000) commercial airline pilots in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, there are approximately one thousand (1,000) African American commercial airline pilots, with fewer than fifty (50) African American female commercial airline pilots; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP should ensure that African American youth are able to fully participate in all technology fields, particularly aviation: and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call for the aviation industry to develop and implement programs which encourage African-American youth to pursue careers in aviation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call for the aviation industry to remove any existing barriers to African Americans working as commercial airline pilots by developing and implementing programs which actively recruit, train, promote and retain African American pilots.

2. **In Support of Eliminating “Corporate Carpet Bagging” and Its Effect on the Local Community**

**WHEREAS**, unions, corporations and business entities that are regulated by the federal government, the practice of fair labor laws; and

**WHEREAS**, more businesses are looking to file bankruptcy, close doors, and sell out to overseas competition and cash in on the "losing money syndrome" to reorganize their business practices which can be called "bad management"; and

**WHEREAS**, the American system of retirement security is in crisis. The system is currently under ferocious attack in both private and public jurisdictions; and

**WHEREAS**, healthy international and domestic-based corporations and businesses are renegeing on decades old commitments of non and negotiated collective bargaining agreements to provide their employees with secure retirement benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, the result is that across our economy, African Americans, especially and other workers will face retirement with inadequate resources to maintain their adequate standard of living; and

**WHEREAS**, well designed and protected defined benefit plans provide benefits for all covered workers, promote lifetime retirement income, deliver valuable survivor and disability protections and offer important early retirement benefits and post-retirement benefit increases; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP denounce practices which keep African Americans, and other minorities from retiring and enjoying their hard earned pensions and benefits; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP denounce the practice of employers going out of business and/or filing bankruptcy and renegeing on negotiated and non-negotiated collective bargaining agreements and using this method to deny workers their earned pension benefits; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP work with the U.S. Congress to develop legislative proposals to provide real retirement security to all American workers that compels employers to set aside adequate amounts of monies that can only be used as retirement funds for its workers and that these funds are portable and guaranteed for life; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will expose and challenge the corporate, political, and financial interests who seek to undermine guaranteed workers' retirement security.

## VII. LEGAL

### 1. Civil Legal Aid for Indigent Litigants

**WHEREAS**, members of the NAACP, in keeping with the charge of our founders, stand against all forms of injustice; and

**WHEREAS**, the courts and administrative tribunals provide an avenue for access to justice to those seeking legal redress; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. legal system is adversarial in nature and requires specialized experience, graduate level education and training for even lawyers to navigate the court and administrative law systems; and

**WHEREAS**, many non-lawyers lack the knowledge training and experience to achieve success in the courts and administrative legal proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, many low-income people cannot afford to pay for an attorney to secure their rights in the courts and before administrative tribunals; and

**WHEREAS**, inadequate government funding has been provided to give civil legal aid to poor and low-income persons; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) research estimates show that at least 80 percent of the civil legal needs of low-income Americans are not being met; and

**WHEREAS**, LSC estimates show that there is approximately one legal aid attorney serving every 6,861 low income persons; and

**WHEREAS**, the problem of access to civil legal representation affects low-income and poor African-Americans for whom the 2000 poverty rate was 22.5%; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2001 poverty rates for African-American individuals and black families with children were about three times higher than the rate for whites; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Bar Association (ABA) Task Force on Access to Civil Justice has recognized that basic human needs such as shelter, sustenance, safety, health and child custody are critical areas involving fundamental and important issues warranting use of an attorney to permit parties to have a fair hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, access to basic human needs such as shelter, sustenance, safety, health and child custody are particularly critical areas for low-income and poor African-Americans who have been historically excluded from economic opportunities and subjected to racial discrimination; and

**WHEREAS**, low-income and poor African-Americans should not be denied access to legal representation in adversarial proceedings to secure basic human needs because of their economic status; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP urge states and the federal government to provide adequate funding to provide legal counsel for low-income persons in adversarial proceedings where basic human needs are at stake.

2. **Public Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Crisis**

**WHEREAS**, the HBCUs are in crisis facing multi-layered challenges, including, but not limited to severe financial stress, inconsistent alumni support, low faculty salaries, false accusations of reverse discrimination, crippling accreditation challenges and “faculty raiding” by white universities; and

**WHEREAS**, during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, many HBCUs were established by religious organizations, mutual aid societies and land grants; and

**WHEREAS**, HBCUs are consistently deprived of equal educational resources. Most HBCUs remain racially segregated with crumbling facilities and inadequate budgets compared with white institutions. Lacking adequate libraries, scientific and research equipment, and facilities, handicaps HBCUs’ ability to remain viable in this new 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and

**WHEREAS**, HBCUs graduate a substantial proportion of all African American college students, including those receiving graduate and professional degrees in the fields of engineering, law and medicine; and

**WHEREAS**, despite promises by state and federal governments to assist HBCUs financially via grants and special funding initiatives, the funding levels are woefully inadequate, representing only a tiny fraction of all higher education dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Education is not fulfilling its statutory duties to enforce Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, after noting clear and consistent violations by states with respect to publicly supported HBCUs; and

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP advocate for comparable funding and support through state governments for state-sponsored, public HBCUs as to other institutions of higher education in their respective states; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP shall undertake every effort to investigate and take appropriate action(s), including possible litigation, to address violations of the law by states and/or the federal government with respect to state public higher education desegregation plans as they impact the viability of State

HBCUs and, consequently, the interests of the Association, its affiliates, and members; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will aggressively support and promote the campaign of HBCUs to encourage alumni and friends to contribute to the financial well being of HBCUs.

## **VIII. LEGISLATIVE**

### **1. Funding for Head Start and Early Head Start**

**WHEREAS**, Early Head Start faces many challenges as it expands, matures, and continues to improve program quality. Early Head Start programs must comply with the Head Start Program Performance Standards and other national and state regulations, respond flexibly to child, family, and community needs, partner with community agencies and child care programs, and adapt services according to rapidly changing social policies that impact on families with young children, such as welfare reform and health policies; and

**WHEREAS**, local grantees continue to focus on developing and implementing quality programs that reflect current research and best practice and to work toward promoting the Head start goal of social competence in children. Early Head Start exemplifies the ideals of Head Start and is a national laboratory for providing quality services to support pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, 1,072,014 children and pregnant women were enrolled in the head start and early head start programs in 2003, representing about 50 percent of those eligible to receive Head start services, 981,245 in Head Start and 90,769 in Early Head Start, 31% Black or African American, 31% Hispanic or Latino origin, 27% White, 11% American Indian or Alaska native, Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander or, Bi-or Multi-Racial or other; and

**WHEREAS**, in fiscal year 2005, Head Start was allocated approximately \$6.8 billion -\$6.2 billion for Head start and \$684 million for Early Head Start which funds 1,982 Head Start programs and 747 Early Head Start programs; and

**WHEREAS**, average cost per child is \$7,296; \$7,061 for Head start and \$19,502 for Early Head Start; and

**WHEREAS**, Early Head Start children have a higher cognitive development, demonstrate a higher level of social-emotional development, a higher communication rate, by age 3 have a larger vocabulary, and parents are more supportive of their children in their efforts to develop their language and learning skills; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP oppose any efforts to make further cuts to the Early Head Start Program; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP seeks full funding of Head Start and increased funding for the Early Head Start Program.

**2. NAACP Supports an Increase in the Minimum Wage**

**WHEREAS**, in the last four years, the cost of housing has gone up 44 percent, college tuition is up 35 percent, and the cost of health insurance is up 59 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a struggle for any family, but for minimum wage workers, it's nearly impossible; and

**WHEREAS**, a minimum wage employee who works full-time, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year, earns only \$10,700 a year – not enough to keep a single parent with children above the poverty line; and

**WHEREAS**, a minimum wage worker who works full time, 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year earns only \$10,700 a year – more than \$6,000 below the poverty level for a family of three; and

**WHEREAS**, in the early 2000's, fewer than one in five minimum wage workers were under the age of 20; and

**WHEREAS**, during that same time half of minimum wage earners were between the ages of 25 and 54; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2002, minimum wage workers earned an average of 68 percent of their total family income; and

**WHEREAS**, millions of minimum wage workers work hard, play by the rules, and barely scrape by; and

**WHEREAS**, minimum wage workers are forced to make impossible choices every day -- between paying rent and buying groceries, between paying the heating bill and buying clothes or going to the doctor; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past ten years Members of Congress have raised their own pay by \$31,000, but the minimum wage has not gone up even one cent over the same time period; and

**WHEREAS**, an increase of \$2.10 over two years, in three increments of .70 cents each, will add \$4,400 to the income of full-time, year-round workers; and



**WHEREAS**, \$4,400 per year is enough for a low-income family of three to buy a year of groceries, or a year and a half of heat and electricity, or more than nine months of rent, or the full two-year tuition for a community college degree; and

**WHEREAS**, raising the minimum wage will enable millions of hard-working Americans to afford a decent home and a better quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP maintains the consistent position that all Americans should benefit from the dignity afforded by a living wage; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirm its commitment to a living wage and call on the U.S. Congress and the President to pass legislation to establish a federal living wage, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP supports increasing the minimum wage with an initial increase of \$1.85 and an increase of \$1.00 an hour per year every year until the U.S. minimum reaches the level of a federal living wage, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP urges the federal government to then tie any additional increase to the federal cost of living index, and

**2(a). Fair Minimum Wage**  
Reaffirm 1996 Policy

**WHEREAS**, the Congress is currently considering legislative proposals to increase the minimum wage; and

**WHEREAS**, this important legislation- in particular “The Working Wage Increase Act of 1996” (S. 413)- provides for an increase in the current minimum wage by 90 cents an hours, over two years; and

**WHEREAS**, this legislation clearly represents a step in the right direction to improve the income and the quality of living for all Americans through an increase in the minimum wage; and

**WHEREAS**, this is particularly true for African Americans, who disproportionately constitute a large segment of minimum wage earners with below poverty incomes; and

**WHEREAS**, legislation increasing the minimum wage is a measure long overdue for hardworking Americans who are desperately trying to make ends meet; and

**WHEREAS**, the real value of the minimum wage is at a forty year low; and

**WHEREAS**, the minimum wage was first set at 25 cents an hour in 1938 under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA); and

**WHEREAS**, Congress last raised the minimum wage with bipartisan support in 1989 from \$3.35 an hour to \$4.25 an hour over two years; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP maintains that support for an increased minimum wage fits squarely into the welfare reform debate since the current minimum wage is not a living wage and instead is an incentive to remaining on welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, Congressional proposals to increase the minimum wage are currently burdened by legislative “gridlock”; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls upon the United States Congress to swiftly pass legislation increasing the minimum wage by 90 cents an hour, over two years; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP mobilize its considerable “grassroots” resources in a nationwide campaign to support this important legislation.

### **3. Microbicide Development Act**

**WHEREAS**, Microbicides are a promising new prevention tool that could slow down the spread of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the United States and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that by age 25 one-half of all sexually active people in the United States are expected to have been infected with a Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD); and

**WHEREAS**, women are the new face of HIV/AIDS and account for nearly one-half of the 37 million adults living with HIV and AIDS worldwide as of 2005, and approximately 7,000 women are infected with HIV each day; and

**WHEREAS**, women comprise about 8 percent of all reported AIDS cases, yet are the fastest growing population with AIDS, and sex with an HIV-infected male is the most common route of transmission; and

**WHEREAS**, AIDS is now the number one cause of death among African-American women between the ages of 25 and 34 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Microbicides may be formulated as gels, creams, or rings to inactivate, block, or otherwise interfere with the transmission of the pathogens that cause AIDS and other STDs, allowing women to protect themselves from disease; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, NIH spent barely 2% of its HIV/AIDS research budget on microbicides, and that funding level is inadequate; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP support the Microbicide development at (S. 550 and H.R. 3854), which would amend the Public Health Service Act to facilitate the development of microbicides for preventing the transmission of HIV and other diseases; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP call on the federal government to make a strong commitment to microbicide research and development through funding, and working with the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) who are three agencies that have played an important [role in](#) microbicide research and development; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP, in the implementation of the research portion of this act, call on the government to fund only that research that acknowledges or tries to explain the complex interactions among race and the biological and social determinants of health.

#### **4. Automotive Insurance Companies' Redlining Practices**

**WHEREAS**, there are many factors that the automotive insurance industry uses to set insurance premiums for its customers; and

**WHEREAS**, the most relevant criteria for an automotive insurance premium is driving record, miles driven, and driving experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the automotive insurance industry is practicing redlining, primarily basing premiums on other less relevant non-driving criteria such as zip codes, area codes, census tracks and credit scores; and

**WHEREAS**, this redlining, causing high premiums, adversely affects African Americans and other communities of color; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirm its opposition to redlining; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls upon the United States Congress and State Legislatures to establish law that mandates that automotive insurance companies, when weighing factors relevant to a customer's premium, place a majority of weight on a customer's driving record, miles driven, and driving experience and prohibits automotive insurance companies from primarily focusing on non-driving criteria such as zip codes, area codes, census tracks and credit scores.

**5. Economic Development Administration Funding**

**WHEREAS**, the Economic Development Administration of the United States Department of Commerce offers partnership planning programs to fund community organizations for economic development programs; and

**WHEREAS**, this funding helps provide jobs and strengthen communities that have been stricken by economic dislocation which happen to be areas more populated by people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, the EDA community funded programs budget has been cut back; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP ask that the EDA community partnership program funds be increased or kept at its current level and avoid any cutbacks by the United States Congress.

**6. The Insurance Industry**

**WHEREAS**, Insurance Industry serves a legitimate societal purpose of providing risk sharing for customers that desire protective liability coverage for home-owners, home-rental, small business/commercial, flood insurance and other areas of economic risk; and

**WHEREAS**, home-owners and home-renters and small business owners purchase insurance liability policies for the purpose of protecting against damage, loss, destruction or theft of property; and

**WHEREAS**, home-owners or home-renters and small businesses seeking new insurance coverage, renewals or changes of existing insurance coverage and services from insurance companies are often denied new, additional or changes in insurance policy coverage predicated on prior filing(s) of claim(s); now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls upon the U.S. Congress and, throughout its units, the various State Legislatures to strongly support protective legislation that prevents the Insurance Industry from not extending coverage based upon solely the number of claim incidences reported by customers; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP shall urge Congress and State Legislatures to enact laws that would impose meaningful disciplinary remedies and monetary penalties against Insurance companies that engage in these unethical early cancellation practices and incidents related cancellation practices.

**7. In Opposition to President Bush's Proposed Changes to Community Development Block Grant Program**

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Management and Budget of the Bush Administration proposes to cut the Community Development Grant by 90% and shift the funds to a new program called "Strengthening America's Communities Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, under this new program, urban cities are expected to receive less funding for economic development programs which are vitally needed to improve and revitalize urban neighborhoods; and

**WHEREAS**, members of both houses of Congress have voiced their opposition to the Bush Administration efforts to dismantle and revamp the Community Block Grant Program which would have a disastrous effect on urban cities; and

**WHEREAS**, fifty-five Senators (including 11 Republicans) have signed a letter asking the Senate Budget Committee to reject the proposal and fund Community Development Block Grant Programs fully in its present home at HUD; and

**WHEREAS**, organizations such as the U.S. Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, National Community Development Association, National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials, National Association of Counties have endorsed the letter, calling it "the lifeblood of community development and revitalization"; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP adds its name to the list of those opposing this proposal; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that our Washington Bureau be advised to monitor this Bill for further action and be prepared to call upon Congress to stop this bill from coming out of committee.

**8. NAACP Strongly Supports the Immediate Renewal and Reauthorization of the 1965 Voting Rights Act**

**WHEREAS**, despite the fact that African Americans and other racial and ethnic minority Americans were guaranteed the right to vote by the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was passed just after the Civil War in 1850, states and local municipalities continued to use tactics such as poll taxes, literacy tests and outright intimidation to stop people from casting free and unfettered ballots for more than 100 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was enacted to insure that no federal, state or local government may in any way impede people from registering to vote or voting because of their race or ethnicity; and

**WHEREAS**, most provisions in the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and specifically the portions that guarantee that no one may be denied the right to vote because of his or her race or color, are permanent; and

**WHEREAS**, there are, however, three crucial enforcement-related provisions of the Voting Rights Act that will expire in August 2007 unless reauthorized; and

**WHEREAS**, originally, in 1965, legislators hoped that within five years the problems would be resolved and there would be no further need for these enforcement-related provisions: however, it proved necessary to extend these in 1970, and again in 1975 and 1982; and

**WHEREAS**, these reauthorizations were accomplished in each case with a strong bipartisan majority and were signed into law by both Democratic and Republican Presidents; and

**WHEREAS**, the first is Section 5, which requires certain jurisdictions to obtain approval or “pre-clearance” from the US Department of Justice or the US District Court in D.C. before they can make any changes to voting practices or procedures. Federal approval will be given only after the jurisdiction proves that the proposed change does not, have the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color; and

**WHEREAS**, the second provision that is due to expire in August 2007 is Section 203, which requires certain jurisdictions to provide bilingual language assistance to voters in communities where there is a concentration of citizens who are limited English proficient. This provision was added to the Voting Rights Act in 1975; and

**WHEREAS**, the third set of expiring provisions are those in Sections 6-9 which authorize the federal government to send federal election examiners and observers to certain jurisdictions covered by Section 5 where there is evidence of attempts to intimidate minority voters at the polls; and

**WHEREAS**, hearings held in the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2005 and on-going hearings in the Senate Judiciary Committee have found a new generation of tactics, including at-large elections, annexations, last minute poll place changes and redistricting which have had a discriminatory impact on voters, especially racial and ethnic minority American voters; and

**WHEREAS**, these extensive and thorough hearings conclusively demonstrated that barriers to equal minority voter protection remain in the United States today; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 2, 2006, legislation was introduced in both the US House and the US Senate, with strong support from both political parties, to reauthorize and restore expiring portions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the right to vote is the foundation of our democracy, and the 1965 Voting Rights Act provides the legal basis to protect this right for all Americans; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its strong support of the Fannie Lou Hammer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP reaffirms its call on the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States to enact the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006 prior to the adjournment of the 109th Congress.

**9. Fossil Fuel**

**WHEREAS**, an escalation of fuel costs is having a devastating impact on African Americans thereby widening the economic gap between American Americans and others; and

**WHEREAS**, an escalation of fuel cost for motor vehicles is at an all-time high; and

**WHEREAS**, no significant relief or substantive solutions to the current crisis have been suggested or put into action; and

**WHEREAS**, those relying on oil as a source for fuel will be devastated and in some cases unable to meet the challenge of the increasing cost; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls upon the President of the United States to issue an Executive Order of the highest priority for the nation to roll back fuel costs to the lowest levels in the year 2005; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls on US Congress for emergency legislation to halt the escalation of gasoline cost within the United States.

**10. Pursuing a Class Action Lawsuit and Apology  
From the United States President and Congress on Behalf of the  
Victims of Hurricane Katrina and Rita**

**WHEREAS**, Hurricane Katrina and Rita devastated America's Gulf Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita's arrival billions of dollars of damage were dealt to New Orleans, Louisiana, Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi, Mobile County, Alabama and other Gulf Coast Regions; and

**WHEREAS**, over a quarter of a million people were displaced due to Katrina and Rita's wrath; and

**WHEREAS**, due to a failure to plan by various agencies within the United States Government, many of the Gulf Coast minorities and poor were left in disparate, unforgiving environments; for as long as 7 days; and

**WHEREAS**, local and state officials in the region made multiple requests for federal assistance, including military personnel, all of which were not answered within a timely manner; and

**WHEREAS**, due to a failure of planning and execution of natural disaster policies and procedure, many of the Gulf Coast's poor and minorities did not receive any federal assistance for evacuation or shelter until almost two days after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast; and

**WHEREAS**, the approximate death toll in the wake of Hurricane Katrina has risen to over 1,200 people making this Hurricane one of the deadliest as well as costliest in US history; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Congress has passed legislation appropriating funds for the Hurricane Katrina relief; while also passing legislation that has relaxed hiring procedures that secure fair and just employment practices and also relaxing federal contracting standards to level the playing field for bidding on federal contracts; leaving African American businesses with little chance to participate in the devastated Gulf Coast economy and workers with little wage protection; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has taken many stances on behalf of America's African Americans, sincere concerns in Appropriations Bill H.R. 3673, which relaxes hiring practices that mandated the inclusion of African Americans in the hiring process; and

**WHEREAS**, thousands of the Gulf Coast displaced persons have sought shelter and residence throughout America and are seeking federal assistance from FEMA and other government agencies, to return them to being productive and active US citizens; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the NAACP urges the United States President and Congress to ensure that all people living in America, in every area that is prone to floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, or any other catastrophic event are made aware of what to do in any and all emergency situations; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls upon the United States President and Congress to immediately issue a formal apology to all victims of



Hurricane Katrina and Rita for the failure of a timely and effective governmental response; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP work for the fair wages and contracts on behalf of African American business owners and African American workers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP will diligently work for full and proper compensation and health-related assistance for the African American business owners and residents displaced from the Gulf Coast by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NAACP calls for a declaration of urgency in the recovery efforts to restore African American and underserved citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita so that rules can be waived or temporarily altered in order to:

1. fairly compensate such citizens for losses;
2. rapidly certify small businesses that wish to become eligible for government contracts (all levels);
3. expeditiously process loans for African American businesses;
4. facilitate prompt acquisition of loans and mortgages by African Americans;
5. waive payment for existing student loans;
6. expand eligibility for educational grants, low interest loans and work study programs;
7. provide Medicaid insurance for families and individuals having incomes of up to 300% of federal poverty; and
8. provide special protections and rules for people who were eligible or would become eligible to vote between August 2005 and December 2008.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP pursue class action litigation on behalf of the African American residents and business owners in the Gulf Coast Region.

## **IX. MEMORIAL**

### **1. The Centennial Commemoration of the Niagara Movement of 1905**

**WHEREAS**, the Niagara Movement, 1905-1908, is the standard bearer for civil rights in the early 20th century, and served as the beacon for efforts to halt the socioeconomic, and political hemorrhaging borne from the tragic events of the late 1800s such as the Rutherford B. Hayes Compromise of 1877, and demise of the Reconstruction Period; the Plessey vs. Ferguson Decision of the 1896; and D.W. Griffith's racist 1915 film Birth off a Nation, as well as a rising tide of racial violence and repression; and

**WHEREAS**, many advocates and activist alike agree that African Americans earned the right to citizenship through their heroism and sacrifice during the Civil War on such hallowed grounds as the assault on Fort Wagner, battle of New Market Heights (Chaffin's Farm), Vicksburg, Petersburg (Battle of the Crater) and Andersonville Prison Camp, to name a few. Or to quote the great 19th century orator, Frederick Douglass, "once the black gets upon his person the brass letters U.S., a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth which can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship in the United States." Additionally, in his autobiography (Life and Times), Douglass wrote: "I ... urged every man who could to enlist to get an eagle on his button, a musket on his shoulder, and the Star-Spangled Banner over his head." Yet, after every ensuing war we return fighting; and

**WHEREAS**, equally important to the Civil War are the stories of W.E.B. DuBois and William Monroe Trotter, both children of Civil War soldiers and who served as leading principals of the Niagara Movement, more commonly known as the precursor of the latter day twentieth century NAACP, and the role of African Americans as soldiers, and their contributions as returning veterans in the light for equal rights; and

**WHEREAS**, today's modern civil rights movement owes an enormous debt of gratitude to W.E.B. Dubois and William Monroe Trotter for the their leadership and contributions in the Historic Niagara Movement meetings that took place in: Buffalo, New York (1905); Niagara Falls, Canada (1905); Harpers Ferry, West Virginia (1906); Boston, Massachusetts (1907); Oberlin, Ohio (1908); and

**WHEREAS**, the Niagara Movement of 1905 is celebrating its 100th Anniversary, commemorating a nationwide unrelenting civil rights struggle, the need for vigilance continues to remain unchanged throughout our history in the United States of America. Even now as we continue the struggle and march forward in the Legislative process to extend the Voter Rights Act of 1965, in 2007; now

**THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP encourages all Units of the Association to acknowledge and support the Centennial Commemoration Celebrations of the Niagara Movement.