

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

## **2014**

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

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

**2014**

## **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 regular legislative meetings 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 May 1st, annually. The Convention shall act on all such proposed program or policy changes during its Legislative Sessions.



**All resolutions contained in this packet was reviewed by the 104<sup>th</sup> Convention of the NAACP, held July 19 through July 23, 2014 in Las Vegas, Nevada. These resolutions were ratified by the National Board of Directors on October 18, 2014 and are now the Official Policy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.**

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**WHEREAS**, on April 22, 2014, in a 6-2 decision, the United States' Supreme Court in the *Schuetz v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action* case overturned the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals and held that Michigan's Proposal 2 is constitutional. Proposal 2 is a 2006 ballot initiative that led to a state constitutional ban on race-conscious college admissions policies in Michigan. It specifically barred students from advocating universities to consider race as one of many factors in admissions; and

**WHEREAS**, while a setback for Michigan, this case did not address the merits of race-conscious admissions, which have been previously upheld by the Supreme Court in cases including the Michigan *Grutter v. Bollinger* decision; and

**WHEREAS**, the question before the court was not whether universities in Michigan can implement race-conscious admissions policies, but whether proponents of diversity are allowed to compete on the same playing field as other constituency groups when seeking consideration in admissions (i.e. legacy, geography, etc.); and

**WHEREAS**, although the voters in one state -- Michigan -- have hampered efforts to diversify college campuses; this ruling has no bearing on the efforts that others may take; and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan's implementation Proposal 2 continues to allow other factors such as alumni status, geography, or athletics considered when developing admissions policies; and

**WHEREAS**, there has been a notable decline in racial and ethnic minority enrollment in Michigan's colleges and universities since Proposal 2 took effect. For example, African-American enrollment plummeted 33 percent at the University of Michigan/Ann Arbor between 2006 and 2012, even as overall enrollment grew by 10 percent; and

**WHEREAS**, to quote Justice Sonia Sotomayor in her dissent in *Schuetz v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, "constitutionally permissible race-sensitive

admissions policies can both serve the compelling interest of obtaining the educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body, and inure to the benefit of racial minorities"; and

**WHEREAS**, in a democracy, everyone should have equal access to education and the political process; and

**WHEREAS**, in a 2011 resolution the NAACP, citing that "diversity in the classroom is a core value of the NAACP," celebrated the decision of the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals to overturn Michigan's Proposal 2, and urged the Michigan Attorney General, Mr. *Schuetz*, not to pursue the case to the U.S. Supreme Court.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP continues to denounce the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in *Schuetz v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will educate local communities, government officials, as well as college and university Boards of Governors, Boards of Trustees, Boards of Regents, and other appropriate officials of the constitutional and crucial benefits of equal opportunity programs such as Affirmative Action; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP encourages all colleges and universities nationwide to redouble their efforts to develop constitutionally permissible race-sensitive admissions policies and to make real, sincere, and effective efforts to include Americans of all races and ethnicities in their student bodies.

## **2. NAACP Official Position on the Use of the Word "Nigger" and the "N" Word**

**WHEREAS**, the Merriam-Webster's dictionary defines "nigger" (the N-word) as "usually offensive: a black person; member of socially disadvantaged class of persons...;" and

**WHEREAS**, the N-word has been established to be derogatory, degrading, dehumanizing and is one of the most offensive words in history; and

**WHEREAS**, the N-word is too often freely and casually used by some individuals in popular media, literature, and general society with usage broadened across racial and generational backgrounds; and

**WHEREAS**, the stigma of this word embodies and invokes painful memories and inhumane ill-will; and countless individuals including NAACP freedom fighters, have lost their lives due to the beliefs perpetuated by the use of this word.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People shall not condone, award, or engage any person that uses the N-word in any capacity, or in any artistic endeavor that does not allude to the historical context of the word, or that does not highlight the prejudicial nature of the word; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People implement the following actions to reinforce its ban on the use of the N-word issued in 2007 and bolster education and awareness about the offensiveness of the word across racial and generational lines: Make the ban reinforcement a top civil rights priority for all units; and urge every youth unit in consultation with their corresponding adult branch develop a plan of action for implementation. Plan must include internal branch affirmation, public awareness, community outreach and a reporting process. In places where no active youth unit exists, the adult unit would be held to the same said requirement.



**1. A National Holiday Commemorating the Emancipation of the Slaves**

**WHEREAS**, President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863 ordered and declared that all persons held as slaves, in states, then in rebellion are henceforward, and forever free; and that the Executive Government of the United States, including the military and naval authorities thereof, will recognize and maintain the freedom of said persons; and

**WHEREAS**, the emancipating of said slaves was not an end within itself, but the beginning of a long struggle for equality and justice that continues today; and

**WHEREAS**, the history and story of the slaves who were emancipated has not been fully and completely told, nor properly recorded or represented; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important that this history and story be properly researched and archived for the American people, especially those of African descent; and

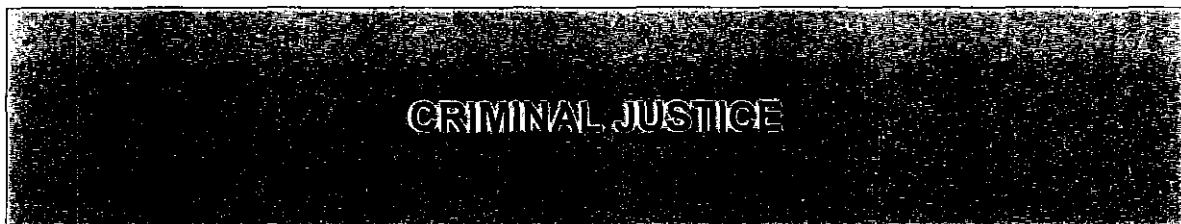


**WHEREAS**, the emancipation of the slaves has significant importance to the "total" and entire history of the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the Emancipation Proclamation, a very important document in American History, deserves to have State and/or National recognition or observance, at a designated day or time.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People pursue the observation of a Holiday in recognition of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that this holiday be our established Jubilee Day, January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.



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**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Civil Rights (DOJ/OCR), on January 8, 2014 issued a guidance to assist public elementary and secondary schools in meeting their obligations under Federal law to administer student discipline without discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin; and

**WHEREAS**, a significant number of students are removed from class each year -even for minor infractions of school rules- due to exclusionary discipline practices which disproportionately impact students of color and students with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, public elementary and secondary schools should evaluate their discipline policies and practices with an eye to reducing the number of students referred to juvenile courts and reducing the number of students suspended, especially for trivial violations; and

**WHEREAS**, such public elementary and secondary school evaluations or reevaluations of their discipline policies and practices should be made with an understanding of the DOJ/OCR student discipline guidelines; and

**WHEREAS**, some students whose school discipline cases are before Juvenile Courts may remain out of school pending decisions by the Courts on their cases; and

**WHEREAS**, schools should understand their civil rights obligations and strive to ensure fairness and equality for all students by continuously evaluating the impact of their discipline policies and practices on all students using data analysis; and

**WHEREAS**, public elementary and secondary schools can and should take internal actions to creatively bring most of those students back into school settings, whether the Courts have finally acted on the cases or not; and

**WHEREAS**, when Juvenile Courts indicate that students suspended or expelled from school should return to school, and school and court officials must work together to ensure the speedy or prompt return of such students to school.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that school systems and Juvenile Courts work to establish Memorandum Of Understanding's that clarify roles and areas of responsibility, processes, scope of work, staffing and leadership, and lines of communication needed to ensure that students are returned to class as soon as possible; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that NAACP advocate for the adoption of the U.S. Departments of Justice and Education policy on school discipline and urge public elementary and secondary schools and Juvenile Courts to take action and return students referred to Juvenile Courts to the classroom as soon as possible.

## **2. Preventing Wrongful Convictions by Improving Accuracy in Eyewitness Interrogation Techniques and Access to DNA Testing**

**WHEREAS**, wrongful convictions have a disastrous and rippling effect on families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of factors lead to wrongful convictions, including eyewitness misidentification, false or coerced confessions, and lack of access to DNA testing; and

**WHEREAS**, the 316 individuals that have been exonerated by DNA evidence have erroneously spent an average of 13 years behind bars, with 18 of those individuals wrongfully sentenced to death; and

**WHEREAS**, 69% of the 316 innocent people exonerated and freed by DNA because of mistaken identification are people of color- as individuals of color are disproportionately harmed by criminal justice error and wrongful convictions; and

**WHEREAS**, mistaken eyewitness identifications contributed to approximately 73% of the 316 wrongful convictions in the United States overturned by post-conviction DNA evidence; and

**WHEREAS**, established research in the field of psychology has clearly demonstrated that cross-racial identifications are particularly unreliable, and that at least 40% of the DNA exonerations involving misidentification were cross-racial in nature; and

**WHEREAS**, the need for eyewitness identification reform has been recognized by law enforcement officials, prosecutors and the judiciary, as well as national justice organizations, including the National Institute of Justice and the National Bar Association; and

**WHEREAS**, false confessions contributed to more than 25% of the 316 wrongful convictions in the United States overturned by post-conviction DNA evidence; and

**WHEREAS**, mandated electronic recording of the entire interrogation process-which has already been adopted by 23 states - protects against false and coerced confessions by ensuring integrity in the interrogation process, and reliable record of what transpired during the course of an interrogation; and

**WHEREAS**, although all fifty states have post-conviction DNA testing access statutes, many of these testing laws deny deserving categories of potential petitioners access to that testing; and

**WHEREAS**, improper forensic science contributed to approximately 50% of the 316 wrongful convictions overturned by post conviction, DNA evidence.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP will advocate for states to adopt core procedural reforms to improve the accuracy of eyewitness identification including blind administration of lineups, proper composition of lineups, proper instructions to the witness and taking statements in the witness' own words at the time of the identification; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP advocate for states to electronically record all interrogations in felony cases in their entirety; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP advocate that all states remove all restrictions to post conviction DNA testing; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP advocate that the federal government promote forensic science research and require scientifically developed standards, and implement uniform standards to ensure that scientific

evidence offered in court is valid, comprehensive, and conforms to the limits of science so that criminal justice can be adjudicated objectively, transparently, and accurately.

### 3. Examination of Law Enforcement/Peace Officers Bill of Rights for Possible Inconsistencies with the U.S. Constitution

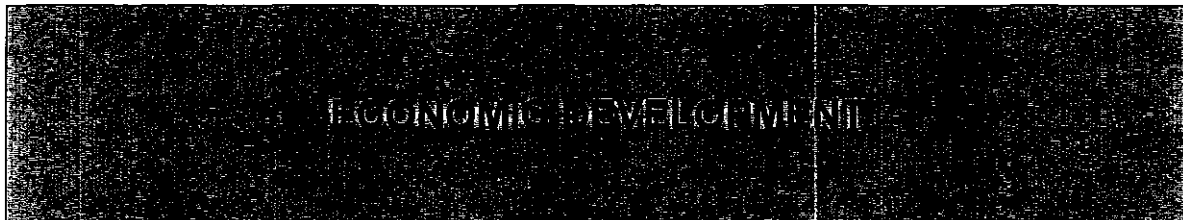
**WHEREAS**, states have in place a Law Enforcement/Peace Officers Bill of Rights to protect them from unreasonable investigations and persecutions caused by extraordinary situations in the performance of their duty; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP is aware of inherent challenges faced by African Americans, people of color, and other groups in receiving equal protection and due process under the law and by law enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States guarantees the basic principles of justice including equal protection and due process for all, set forth in the Fourteenth Amendment and the Fifth Amendment.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that all units of the Association obtain for their records a copy of their Law Enforcement/Peace Officers Bill of Rights; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that in the event of a complaint of a civil rights violation, police misconduct, misuse of force, or abuse of force, NAACP units will provide any such Law Enforcement/Peace Officers Bill of Rights to the NAACP so that it may undertake a review to determine if any constitutional violations can be ascertained.



**WHEREAS**, the unemployment rate for African American workers has, on average, been approximately double that of white workers for nearly 50 years; and

**WHEREAS**, African American workers will endure longer and more frequent periods of unemployment than white workers in their lifetimes; and

**WHEREAS**, attacks on union membership and the expansion of right-to-work laws have made it harder for workers to secure long term work and a good living wage, which has disproportionately impacted racial and ethnic minorities, including African American workers; and

**WHEREAS**, public employment at the federal, state, and local levels continues to decline and has a disproportionate negative impact on African Americans and other racial and ethnic minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, as America moves further from its industrial past, it is critical that training programs and education opportunities be provided so workers are prepared to meet the needs of the emerging positions which are taking the place of occupations that are disappearing; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the occupations which are expanding in today's economy are in fields with a smaller African American or Latino share of the workforce, particularly in higher wage positions, including science technology, engineering, and math (the STEM fields) as well as healthcare, law, and finance; and

**WHEREAS**, bridging the gap in unemployment and underemployment must be a concerted effort by all branches and divisions of government and employers. Regardless of the effort expended in the past, there has been little or no progress in this regard; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the fact that throughout the 1970's and 1980's the NAACP passed resolutions supporting employment measures such as the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Act and the American Jobs Act in 2010 unemployment rates among African Americans, and especially young African American men, remains unacceptably, disproportionately high; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the persistent unemployment and underemployment of African Americans, 27.6 percent of African-Americans live in poverty. The African American child poverty figures are particularly disturbing: 38.8 percent of children under age 18 and 42.7 percent of children under age 5 live below the poverty line.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP demands the expansion and effective enforcement of successful anti-discrimination programs and agencies such as the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, and the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion (OMWI) and other such agencies, which oversees diversity in financial regulation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP supports low wage workers advocating for a living wage and the recognition of their collective bargaining rights where it is shown to reduce both the wage and employment gap; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP supports strong action by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve and policymakers to enact policies that will lead to full employment for African American, Latino, and Native American workers; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for the return of public sector employment at the local, state, and federal level which is a traditional source of well-paid work; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP continues to support and calls on Congress to pass the yet to be enacted components of President Obama's 2011 American Jobs Act including full funding of the job creation provisions, which would result in an additional 500,000 new public sector jobs and 500,000 new private sector jobs. This also includes \$15 billion in a national effort to put construction workers on the job rehabilitating and refurbishing hundreds of thousands of vacant and foreclosed homes and businesses; invest \$25 billion in school infrastructure to modernize at least 35,000 public schools, with the funds targeted at the lowest income districts; and invest \$35 billion to prevent layoffs of up to 280,000 public school teachers, while hiring tens of thousands more teachers and keeping first responders, such as cops and firefighters on the job; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls on each public education system to graduate every enrolled student to the extent that he/she is ready for gainful employment or further technical or professional study.

## **2. Increase in Resource Limit and Means Testing for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) to Increase**

**WHEREAS**, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is a United States government program which makes monthly, basic payments to individuals who have low income and few resources and are age 65 or older, blind or disabled; and

**WHEREAS**, this benefit is subject to means testing, including both income and asset limits, the recipient may possess no more than \$2,000 in assets, including cash, money in a checking or savings account, cash value in life insurance policies (over \$1,500), stocks and bonds, household goods and personal effects (over \$2,000), motor vehicles (except for one), and real estate (other than the home in which a claimant resides); and

**WHEREAS**, this amount has not been increased since 1989, and the average monthly SSI payment in 2013 was \$507 with a maximum payment of \$721 for an individual; and

**WHEREAS**, the maximum monthly benefit payment is grossly inadequate in providing much needed assistance to this disadvantaged group of citizens and sorely in need of an increase to be commensurate with today's economy.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP demands that SSI means testing asset limits and resource limits be raised and indexed to inflation in order that the original mandate of the program, making monthly, basic payments to individuals who have low income and few resources and are age 65 or older, blind or disabled; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, the NAACP supports the "*Supplemental Security Income Restoration Act of 2014*", which updates and indexes to inflation the amount of "earned income" a person can make to \$357 per month (earned income is money received through work); updates and indexes to inflation the amount of "general income" a person can make to \$110 per month (general income is money received through means other than work); updates and indexes to inflation the amount of "resources" a person or an eligible couple can have to \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively (resources is cash or anything considered a liquid asset); repeals the provision-and its subsequent penalty-disallowing financial, food, and housing support from friends and family; and helps the Social Security Administration (SSA) administer SSI in order to streamline the claims process and eliminate mistakes.

### **3. *Support of the Fast Food Industry Workers' Movement Fighting to Win a Living Wage & the Right to Form a Union Without Retaliation***

**WHEREAS**, the promotion of economic justice for all is a cornerstone of the NAACP's mission, and the organization has steadfastly supported efforts to obtain a living wage for all working people, including endorsement of the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2013 and the Executive Order mandating that federal contractors raise their minimum wage to \$10.10 an hour; and

**WHEREAS**, the struggles of working people of color to win just compensation, equal treatment, and the right to form a union without retaliation have long been essential to the advancement of people of color; and

**WHEREAS**, the four million fast food workers are the largest group of minimum wage workers in the United States, with workers of color disproportionately represented and especially concentrated in the lowest paying jobs; where only ten percent of workers of color hold management positions compared with almost half of the white men who work in fast food industry, further perpetuating the racial wage gap; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fast Food Worker Movement is a broad multi-racial movement of fast food workers fighting for a living wage and the right to form a union without retaliation as a vehicle to transform the reality of

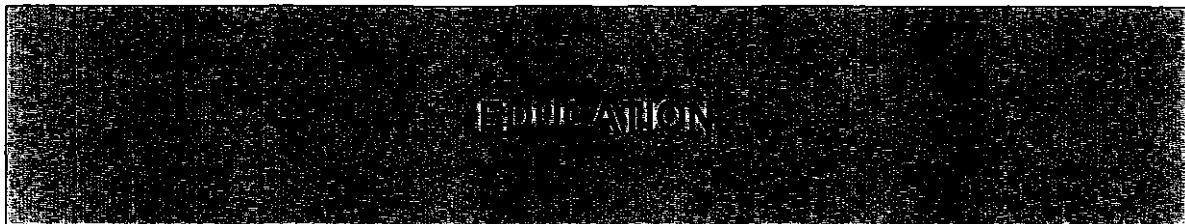
low-wage workers who struggle to survive on poverty wages, with little or no access to benefits or health care, and so are forced to rely on public assistance to provide for their families and who are subject to discrimination, harassment, and wage theft, among other injustices; and

**WHEREAS**, the movement has continued to grow, with fast food workers in stores in more than 100 cities across the United States went on strike in December of 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, a national coalition of faith, community, civil rights, labor unions, and worker advocacy organizations have joined together to support the fast food workers' movement and its call for broadly-shared prosperity and an economy that works for all.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People fully support the movement of fast food workers to win a living wage and the right to form a union without retaliation and will stand with workers, and take necessary action to build a better and more equal future for all workers; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that NAACP units actively join approved coalitions within their jurisdiction in support of the fast food workers movement.



#### 1. *calling for a trauma-informed education*

**WHEREAS**, the American Psychiatric Association (APA) defined trauma in childhood as an event which threatens injury, death, or the physical body of a child or adolescent while also causing shock, terror or helplessness, and

**WHEREAS**, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) defines complex trauma as children's experiences of multiple traumatic events that occur within the care-giving system – the social environment that is supposed to be the source of safety and stability in a child's life; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Justice statistics report that at least 60% of youth in the United States have or do suffer from trauma making trauma, a medical condition that affects all corners of our nation; and



**WHEREAS;** recent statistics report that each year as many as 17.8 million youth are exposed to domestic violence as witnesses or as victims; and

**WHEREAS;** trauma can be brought about by poverty, racism, abuse, homicide, homelessness, social isolation, and other adverse experiences; and

**WHEREAS;** the untreated victims of trauma remain invisible and unacknowledged because they are frequently young, poor and people of color; and

**WHEREAS;** the vast majority of our nation's children attend the universal public school system from early childhood through adolescence; making it essential that public school professionals know of and understand the impact of trauma on a child's school performance.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People calls for a trauma-informed education system across the nation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each local Unit of the NAACP is encouraged to study the issue and to consider how it can directly call upon local, state and federal legislators to enact reforms that create trauma-informed education systems; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local Units consider how they might wage a vigorous effort to inform their communities concerning the extent of and causes of trauma in children as well as how trauma impacts school performance; and to seek out and work with other organizations that understand the issue; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that all NAACP Units will stand united in challenging the entire education system including colleges and universities that prepare educators, to address the need for a universal, trauma-informed education system across the nation.

## **2. *Call on the NCAA & Congress to Grant Collective Bargaining Rights to Student Athletes***

**WHEREAS,** the Chicago District of the National Labor Relations Board upheld the rights of Northwestern football players to unionize; and

**WHEREAS,** Northwestern University, the Big 10 Football Conference, and the NCAA has objected to the National Labor Relations Board's decision; and

**WHEREAS,** the rights of student athletes are an issue of national concern; and

**WHEREAS**, those opposed to unionization argue that football players are student athletes, not employees, defending the cherished ideal of amateurism, and assert that college scholarships are more than fair compensation for their services; and

**WHEREAS**, student athletes note that they are "faced with the serious risk of concussions and long-term injuries" and that their scholarships, room, and board are contingent upon their participation on the football field; and

**WHEREAS**, student athletic scholarships do amount to some level of compensation, but student athletes lack the power of negotiation as students in a high-pressured business environment of collegiate sports; and

**WHEREAS**, seeking the protection of collective bargaining, student athletes have made the strong case that they are employees based on the time they devote to the sport (at least 40 hours per week in season and from 12 to 30 hours in the off season); and they meet the common law definition of an employee as one who performs "services" for another and submits oneself to the "control" of another (a coach) in return for payment (a scholarship); and

**WHEREAS**, with respect to their recruitment, the time commitment required of them, the conditions under which they are expected to work, and scheduling accommodations, "big-time" collegiate sports players are treated as athletes first and as students second with little or no power to address the escalating demands on their time and their bodies; and

**WHEREAS**, the right to collective bargain and unionization is a necessary consequence of the evolution of collegiate sports into a billion dollar industry, giving student athletes meaningful control over the conditions in which they train, practice, and play, as well as establishing and maintaining high standards for coaches as educators.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls upon the full National Labor Relations Board to adopt the ruling of its Chicago regional director with respect to the unionization of college athletes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP demand that the NCAA revise its policies to require that colleges and universities provide scholarships to allow student-athletes that fully cover their education and living expenses until they receive a conferred degree from the sponsoring educational institution; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP call upon the Congress of the United States and the legislatures of the several states to enact appropriate legislation to that end.

### **3. School Privatization Threat to Public Education**

**WHEREAS**, there is an increasing emergence of privatization of our nation's public schools and/or the establishment of charter schools within public school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, there are concerns that such privatization of school districts would pose a significant threat to the improvement, accountability, continued development and financial stability of an already underfunded public education system; and

**WHEREAS**, conversions of public schools to private entities would pose a detriment to the essential safeguards and protection of rights for students, parents, teachers and taxpaying citizens within public school districts; and

**WHEREAS**, in its 2010 Resolution on charter schools, the NAACP opposed the use of charter schools as the vanguard of education reform; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP opposed vouchers in 1978, 1982, 1985, 1992, 1993, 1997, and 2003 and in 1979 opposed tax benefit to segregated private schools; and

**WHEREAS**, privatization of public schools and /or the establishment of charter schools within public school districts diverts much needed funding for public education to private or charter schools, thereby further dismantling the viability of the public education system and limiting the number of children who would be afforded the opportunity of an adequate and effective education in contravention of the United States Supreme Court's 1954 landmark decision in *Brown v Board of Education* which declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal."

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People opposes the privatization of public schools and/or public subsidizing or funding of for-profit or charter schools; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will continue to advocate against any state or Federal legislation which commits or diverts public funding, allows tax breaks, or establishes preferential advantages to for-profit, private and/or charter schools; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for full funding and support of high quality free public education for all children.

## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### 1. *Promoting Equitable Access to Clean Energy Alternatives*

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP reaffirms its Resolutions on Environmental and Climate Justice in 1993, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2009, 2011 and 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of not making the transition to energy efficiency and clean energy is disproportionately borne by communities of color and low income communities who disproportionately host polluting toxic facilities thereby resulting in loss of lives, lowered property values, lost days of schools (compromising educational potential), lost days of work (affecting wages and compromising promotion potential), and shortened life spans due to increased morbidity; and communities of color and low income communities are also most impacted by the results of climate change, including loss of life, livelihood, property, and culture, which are tied to over-reliance on fossil fuel based energy production; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential that the United States find ways to assure universal affordable access to a clean energy portfolio to prevent the recurrence of environmentally racist policies and practices that often contribute to the disproportionately high rates of exposure to pollution from fossil fuel and nuclear based energy production and toxic waste that have plagued African American, Latino, Native American and other communities of color and low income for decades; and

**WHEREAS**, energy provides a basic yet vital foundation for economic opportunity and social advancement in low-income and communities of color across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, included in these innovations are distributed energy resources that can be placed on a home or property and provide electricity directly to the citizen, and if any excess electricity can be sold to the local utility; and

**WHEREAS**, the price of solar is declining and in some states is becoming cost competitive with other fuels; and

**WHEREAS**, for the first time in history solar may present an opportunity for some low income families to produce their own energy and get out from under the cycle of paying up to 30% of annual monthly income for energy bills; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) has urged state and federal lawmakers to adopt fair, equitable, and non-regressive financing models to aid low-income households and communities to become more energy efficient (NBCSL Resolution ETE-14-32 (2014)); and

**WHEREAS**, the price of solar is dropping so fast that solar stands to become an important avenue out of energy poverty for many communities, provided that appropriate policy mechanisms are in place to ensure equitable access for all consumers; and

**WHEREAS**, when deployed under equitable policy frameworks, distributed generation of solar energy, rather than exporting energy dollars of communities, can be an avenue to produce locally owned energy and create good paying local jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, the solar industry currently employs 119,016 Americans and solar employment grew 13.2 percent over the past year, making it one of the fastest growing industries in the country. And distributed solar located within communities would bring jobs to local communities as local ownership brings 2 to 3 times more jobs per kilowatt than centralized energy systems; and

**WHEREAS**, several models for affordable access to solar power for low-income families exist, such as group discount programs, affordable leases, and community solar installations; and

**WHEREAS**, government oversight of electricity providers should continue to ensure the availability and universal access to clean energy while keeping prices fair and transparent.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") will continue to support the deployment of clean energy sources, especially solar located within local communities, and wind power; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will continue to support programs and policies that ensure affordable access to clean energy options for all; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP advocates for equitable and sustainable job training and job opportunities to low- to moderate-income African American residents within communities of color; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that utility companies be required to connect to the local producers that they distribute energy to, so that they can buy back at the same rate; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will transmit this Resolution to state legislatures and public utility commissions that are considering renewable energy cost allocation policies.

**~~2. Safe Disposal of Electronic Waste Domestically and Internationally~~**

**WHEREAS**, electronic waste consists of discarded electronic devices that contain a plethora of toxic substances such as mercury, lead, cadmium, arsenic, beryllium and brominated flame retardant; and

**WHEREAS**, when these toxins are released they not only damage the environment by contaminating our drinking water and soil, they also cause fatal health effects including birth defects, brain, heart, liver, kidney and skeletal system damage; and

**WHEREAS**, for decades, developed countries have been exporting their electronic waste to underdeveloped nations, particularly African nations; that have no provisions for the safe handling and disposal of these wastes; and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of thousands of people who live in close proximity to electronic waste dumping sites in Africa have endured reduced life expectancy, increases in cancer and birth defects, lead poisoning, chronic nausea, headaches, chest and respiratory problems; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2012, the United States generated 10 million tons of electronic waste, the majority of which was exported to developing countries such as Ghana and Nigeria or was dumped domestically in or adjacent to low income and minority communities, largely in the southern states; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1989, to stop the export of the world's hazardous electronic waste to underdeveloped nations, 116 countries drafted and signed the Basel Convention, the original text of which allowed for the export of hazardous waste to developing nations only if the shipments met the notification and consent system implemented; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1995, the Basel Convention was amended by 78 nations to adopt the "Ban Amendment" which prohibits OCED nations from exporting hazardous waste to non-OCED nations for any reason; and

**WHEREAS**, only two nations have not yet ratified the Basel Convention in its entirety- Haiti and the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of State has declined to consider ratifying the 1995 Ban Amendment that prohibits any export of hazardous materials to non-OCED nations but has instead considered ratification of the original 1989 Basel Convention; and

**WHEREAS**, it is inappropriate for a government to ratify a treaty but not its most significant amendment; that would be analogous to a new state of the U.S. ratifying the U.S. Constitution but not the Bill of Rights; and

**WHEREAS**, if the United States ratifies and observes the Basel Convention in its entirety, there is a risk that the 10+ million tons of electronic waste generated by the United States every year will all be dumped domestically, particularly in southern U.S. minority communities that lack political power or that are desperate for revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2011, to help the U.S. government resolve the electronic waste crisis, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in conjunction with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the General Services Administration, published the National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship, which makes recommendations for the U.S. government to implement to safely and responsibly manage electronic waste domestically and abroad; and

**WHEREAS**, to achieve safe and responsible electronic waste management, the National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship recommended that the United States ratify the Basel Convention, increase capacity for safe domestic electronic waste recycling, explore and promote the safe handling of electronic waste recycled domestically and abroad, and only export electronic waste to nations for which the United States has confidence in the nations' facilities' practices and their environmental, health and safety legal and regulatory regimes.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People requests that President Obama, Secretary of State Kerry, and Congress take steps to secure the United States' ratification and compliance with the Basel Convention in its entirety and adopt and implement both the domestic and international electronic waste disposal recommendations set out in the National Strategy for Electronics Stewardship.



#### 1. *Dyslexia*

**WHEREAS**, low literacy and functional illiteracy is reaching crisis levels within our society as a whole. Literacy impacts both educational attainment as well as economic status, and low literacy levels can be responsible for unemployment; poverty; academic failure; increased criminal behavior and poor health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Education and the National Institute of Literacy, 32 million adults in the U.S. can't read. That's 14 percent of the population, 21 percent of adults in the U.S. read below a 5th grade level, and 19 percent of high school graduates can't read; and

**WHEREAS**, Dyslexia is hereditary and the most common reading disability with approximately 1 out of every 5 people struggling with dyslexia. More than 20% of the population is dyslexic, yet many remain undiagnosed, untreated and struggling with the impact of their dyslexia.

**WHEREAS**, according to Yale Dyslexia and Creativity Center, "Dyslexia crosses racial, ethnic and socioeconomic lines and with proper instruction and accommodations, it can be remediated. However, the diagnosis and treatment of dyslexia remains elusive in public school environments, and even more so within urban school populations and African American communities." Children who cannot read are marginalized and left to struggle and ultimately risk falling completely through the cracks, dropping out of school and facing dismal futures; and

**WHEREAS**, "more than 60% of urban school children do not graduate from high school, and 40% of those who do graduate read at a 4th grade level. Only 14% of African- American 8th graders read at a proficient level. The high school dropout rate among African Americans is even more staggering with more than 60% dropping out in high school. And, undiagnosed and untreated reading disabilities increase the risk of youth involvement in the juvenile justice systems." Perpetuating the school to prison pipeline."

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, it is imperative and appropriate that the NAACP join the fight to raise awareness, support legislation, and the need for more appropriate accommodations for children of color to ensure that all African American children receive screening, tutoring and proper remediation services in school to combat this Civil Rights Issue of Our Time!

## **2. Non-Profit to For-Profit Hospital Status**

**WHEREAS**, health care access is one of the underpinnings of the NAACP as a civil rights issue; and

**WHEREAS**, non-profit hospitals with affiliated healthcare organizations have community services as integral aspects of their vision, mission, strategic objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, non-profit hospitals are required to have community benefit programs as part of their 501(c)(3) status; and





**WHEREAS**, as of April 2014, more than 8 million Americans have enrolled in the Health Insurance Marketplace; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 6.8 million eligible uninsured African Americans will have access to health care coverage, while at least 95% of all uninsured African-Americans are eligible for Marketplace tax credits, Medicaid, or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); and

**WHEREAS**, as of March 28, 2014, 21 states are not expanding Medicaid coverage at this time, which disproportionately affects African Americans who will face coverage gaps and will have limited access to affordable and quality care.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP strongly advocated for and supports the full implementation and education of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP actively engage with ACA navigators and certified application counselors at the state and local level from October 2014 to February 2015 to educate and enroll members of their respective communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP engage with their respective Department of Health & Human Services Regional Office and public health agencies to host education sessions, panel discussions, town hall meetings and other community events to educate community members on the benefits and importance of the ACA; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the NAACP units continue to work in the states that did not expand Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, and/or set up a market place to take immediate action (with visits to state legislators and governor offices, press conferences, public forums and other promotional initiatives with assistance from our Washington Bureau and National Office) to advocate for the expansion of Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and Medicaid, and to set up a marketplace.

#### **4. The NAACP Supports Equally Priced Work in the Built Environment**

**WHEREAS**, the built environment is defined as the physical space of neighborhoods that provide opportunities for healthy, accessible and safe living options; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP understands and recognizes the need to lend its advocacy voice to the work occurring in the built environment and active transportation movements; and

**WHEREAS**, twice as many low and moderate income kids walk or bike to school than affluent kids; as such, 65% of families below the poverty line do not own a car; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the great need for access to safe streets and physical activity, sidewalks in African American communities are 38 times more likely to be of low quality; and

**WHEREAS**, lack of access puts the health of children at stake: children in neighborhoods that lack access to parks, playgrounds and recreation centers have 20 to 45 percent greater risk of becoming overweight; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP encourages the adoption of Shared and Joint Use agreements between local governments, school districts, and non-profits to increase the opportunity for more physical activity in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP encourages the adoption of complete streets policies by municipal governments to enhance the built environment in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color; and

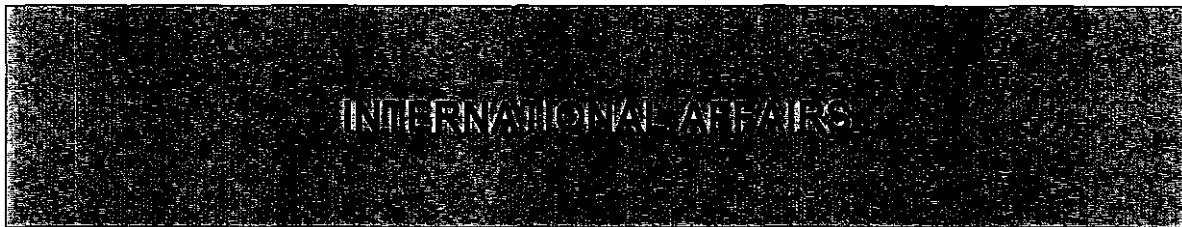
**WHEREAS**, the NAACP supports federal transportation, and other infrastructure, policies such as MAP-21 which enhance the opportunity for low-income communities and communities of color to receive transportation, and other infrastructure dollars for local projects; and

**WHEREAS**, MAP-21 is a mechanism for how the federal government gives transportation dollars to states, which can in turn, use them for projects; and

**WHEREAS**, The NAACP is proud to be an equity partner with the Safe Routes to School National Partnership and a leader on both the National Active Transportation Diversity Task Force and the National Shared Use Task Force along with over 40 other national and local organizations.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP will continue to advocate for the adoption of Shared and Joint Use Agreements, Complete Street Policies, Active Transportation Policies, equitable flood protection funding policies, equitable water supply policies, and equitable energy network policies, that enhance the built environment in communities of color; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** the NAACP support equitable opportunities and efforts in communities of color that reduce disparities and increase opportunities in the built environment Which effect where families live, work, and play.



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**WHEREAS**, the NAACP Constitution affirmatively states our objective to ensure the "political, educational, social and economic equality" of all people; and

**WHEREAS**, in 78 nations world-wide, including 38 countries on the African continent, laws have been enacted that carry criminal sanctions for consensual same-sex conduct. Some of these laws, including one passed in 2013 in Uganda, even impose the death penalty for same-sex relations, and others punish individuals for simply failing to report suspicions of same-sex behavior by friends, relatives, neighbors or acquaintances; and

**WHEREAS**, over the past decade, human rights violations on the basis of real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity have become increasingly visible across parts of Africa; and

**WHEREAS**, since the enactment of these discriminatory laws, violence against LGBT individuals and individuals suspected of LGBT activities has increased; and

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has opposed and will continue to oppose any policy or legislative initiative, whether domestic or international, that seeks to codify discrimination or hatred into the law.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP in support of the international declaration of Human Rights calls on all countries to repeal draconian Anti-LGBT laws, and to protect all citizens of their country from all forms of discrimination and abuse; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP pledges to work with foreign governments to ensure the full exercise of all human rights for all people, regardless of their race, place of national origin, gender, age, or sexual orientation or gender expression.

## LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

### 1. *Increasing Labor Rates for Prisoners to Minimum Wages*

**WHEREAS**, NAACP fought to increase minimum wage to 7.25 per hour in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, wages paid to prisoners are typically only .17 to .25 cents per hour with maximum hours worked of six hours with the highest-paying private prison receive around 50 cents per hour for what they call "highly skilled" positions; and

**WHEREAS**, prisoners cannot strike or demand higher rates or unionize; and

**WHEREAS**, a disproportionate number of African Americans and Hispanics are within the prison labor pool and serve considerable longer sentences for comparable crimes; and

**WHEREAS**, privatization of prison has become big business or a new form of slavery generating high profits on Wall Street; and

**WHEREAS**, using prison labor prevents fair competition for companies providing the same type of product while taking advantage of prisoners; and

**WHEREAS**, United States use of prison labor is akin to third world countries exploitation of labor; and

**WHEREAS**, prisoners that have children can contribute a greater amount towards child support and to their victims rather than towards the profitability of the prison, if they earned minimum wage rather than pennies; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring that prisoners that have children will contribute mandatory child support and restitution to their victims rather than towards the profitability of the prison or themselves; and,

**WHEREAS**, more wages can also be banked to help sustain the prisoner upon release of prison because leaving prison with some funds improves the family situation and reduces recidivism; and

**WHEREAS**, contributing a greater amount to the family while in prison and the ability to be self sustainable after prison creates stronger families and communities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will advocate for an increase in labor rates to at least minimum wage for working prisoners; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to connect with prison advocate groups, meet with their state and national legislatures, congressmen/women and encourage them to legislate for changing the prisoner labor rates to minimum wage.



**1. NAACP Oppose Cuts in Food Stamps, Limits on Eligibility**

**WHEREAS**, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") (formerly known as "food stamps"), is operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, as of January, 2014, more than 46.5 million Americans in 23 million households relied on SNAP; and

**WHEREAS**, about one-in-five Americans (18%) has participated in SNAP in their lifetime; about a quarter of all Americans (26%) live in a household with a current or former food stamp recipient; and

**WHEREAS**, the average SNAP benefit is currently \$133 in food assistance each month, which is only approximately \$4.43 per day; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2013 Senate consideration of the bill to reauthorize SNAP an amendment was included in the final bill to deny SNAP benefits to anyone who was ever convicted of a variety of crimes, regardless of how long they had been out of prison or jail; and

**WHEREAS**, during the 2013 consideration of the bill to reauthorize SNAP in the U.S. House of Representatives, a provision was included which would have required intrusive drug testing for all beneficiaries- regardless of their age (even children) or lack of any previous record of drug use; and

**WHEREAS**, the bill passed by the U.S Senate would have reduced federal spending on SNAP by \$5 billion over 5 years; the U.S. House of Representatives also passed legislation in 2013 which would have cut federal funding for SNAP by \$40 billion over 5 years; and

**WHEREAS**, the final bill reauthorizing the SNAP program for 5 years was passed by both the House and the Senate in late January, 2014, and signed into law by the President Barack Obama in February 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, while the final bill did change the eligibility standards for SNAP so as to result in a reduction of approximately \$8 billion over 5 years, it did not contain the objectionable language restricting SNAP use by ex-felony offenders or requiring drug testing of SNAP recipients.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP strongly reaffirms its support for a robust Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program that meets the needs of Americans, as expressed in our 1976 and 1995 resolutions; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP Washington Bureau shall continue to argue in favor of restoring critical funding to the SNAP program as well as in continued opposition to onerous requirements which may have a disparate impact on American families struggling to get through hard times.

**WHEREAS**, the NAACP has been a vocal proponent of the SNAP program, and has consistently advocated for the program's expansion and funding. The NAACP has also been a vocal opponent of any attempt to cut funding for the program, and has consistently advocated for the program's expansion and funding. The NAACP has also been a vocal opponent of any attempt to cut funding for the program, and has consistently advocated for the program's expansion and funding.

**WHEREAS**, three legislative proposals in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress- H.R. 880, *IS. 410 the Wall Street Trading and Speculators Tax Act*, and H.R. 1579, the *Inclusive Prosperity Act*, --would impose a new .03% tax on Wall Street transactions – less than Y2 of 1%; and

**WHEREAS**, dubbed the "Robin Hood tax", this proposal would generate hundreds of billions of dollars each year to go to the U.S. Treasury; and

**WHEREAS**, a "Robin Hood tax" won't affect ordinary Americans, their personal savings, or every day consumer activity, such as ATMs or debit cards. It would only affect Wall Street bankers, hedge fund managers, and others in the financial services sector, the very same men and women who lead the U.S. economy to the brink of disaster in 2008 and then were subsequently bailed out by the U.S. taxpayers; and

**WHEREAS**, a small per-trade levy would raise needed revenue from an under-taxed sector and foster greater income equality; and

**WHEREAS**, as proposed this initiative would also have the impact of curbing speculation, and making the banking system more stable, by putting high-frequency traders out of business by denting the profits made from each transaction; and

**WHEREAS**, supporters of a Robin Hood tax include former Vice President Al Gore, Microsoft Founder Bill Gates, and David Stockman, who served as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under President Ronald Reagan, several trade unions, nurses, small business owners, community organizers, faith leaders, AIDS activists, environmentalists, movie stars and musicians, and more than 220 million people in 25 countries.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP would support legislation that generates a new revenue source that imposes a small, per-trade levy on financial transactions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that before any new legislation is fully supported by the NAACP, it must be guaranteed that low- and moderate- income Americans will not be adversely affected; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that any new revenues generated by the above referenced legislation must be used to ensure the strength and continued viability of federal health, education, housing, small business development, child care, job training, job creation, and other crucial social programs to help less fortunate Americans.



#### **1. NAACP Re-affirm Its Support for Greater Transparency and Integrity in Elections**

**WHEREAS**, in a resolution passed in 2012, the NAACP decried the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, which "opened the door to unlimited corporate financing of elections"; and

**WHEREAS**, on April, 2, 2014, the United States Supreme Court issued a decision in *McCutcheon vs. FEC* in which a narrow 5-4 majority struck down the limit on the total amount that one wealthy donor is permitted to contribute to all federal candidates, parties, and political action committees (PACs) combined; and



**WHEREAS**, as a result of the *McCutcheon* decision an individual can now donate up to \$3.5 million to an individual campaign, political party, or political organization, instead of the prior cap of \$123,200; and

**WHEREAS**, the former "aggregate contribution limit" of \$123,200 over a two-year election cycle was in fact more than twice the average income for an American household, and \$3.5 million is more than 56 times the average income of an American family; and

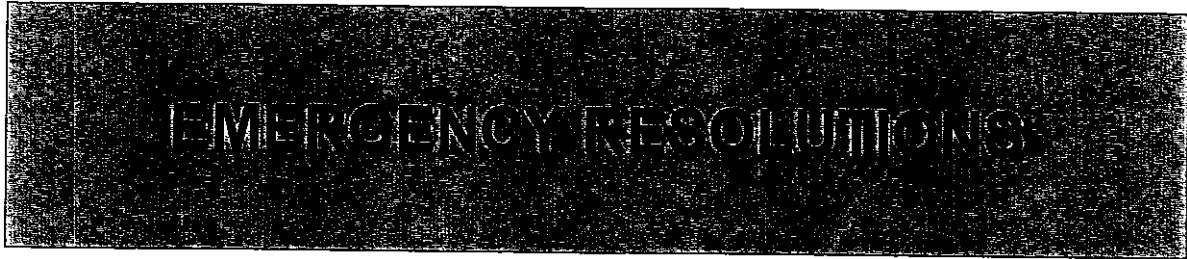
**WHEREAS**, this decision is another blow to our ability to defend our democratic government from further domination by the wealthiest among us, who can now increase their ability to influence politicians, politics, which issues are debated, and how those issues are resolved; and

**WHEREAS**, the *McCutcheon* decision will have the impact of further drowning out the voices of ordinary Americans, who cannot afford to donate \$3.5 million to a political campaign.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP reaffirm its 2012 call to all units to support local, state, and federal legislation including H.R. 20/S. 2023 efforts that would encourage public financing of campaigns so as to increase the public's confidence in the integrity of the nation's elections; and

**BE**

**IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will continue to work to educate units and the communities they serve on the impact of special interest money in elections through education efforts that enable units to better understand the long term impact of special interest money on elections and thereby, minority voters' ability to fully participate in the democratic process.



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

### 1. NAACP Condemn the Use of the Excessive Force Tactics that Led to the Death of Eric Garner

**WHEREAS**, on Thursday, July 17, 2014, Eric Garner, an African American male was in a place where he had a lawful right to be on the streets of Staten Island, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Garner was not suspected of being engaged in felonious or violent criminal behavior, and was not posing a threat to himself, police officers or anyone else; and was not in possession of any deadly weapons; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Garner was approached by New York City Police Officers, and was physically wrestled to the ground by the officers with one officer using an illegal and outlawed choke hold; and

**WHEREAS**, Eric Garner eventually died during the ensuing restraint by numerous officers; and

**WHEREAS**, the choke hold has been outlawed for decades as a use of restraint by law enforcement officers from a number of states and is not taught nor trained as a means of restraint in police training academies; and

**WHEREAS**, the police killing of unarmed African American males and females have reached epidemic proportions in America, for example the state of Delaware is reviewing the killing of nine unarmed African Americans and Hispanics and the state of Connecticut is reviewing the police killing of three unarmed African Americans which is only reflective of the nationwide epidemic.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP condemn the use of the excessive force tactics that led to the death of Eric Garner; and often has lead to the deaths of other persons of color throughout the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will use all tools available in its advocacy arsenal including working with its local branches, state conferences, Legal Department and Washington Bureau to bring about justice in cases involving killings of unarmed Persons of Color by law enforcement officials in the United States of America; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP will advocate that the Justice Department aggressively prosecute police officers involved with the killing of unarmed People of Color, and request that they work toward the prevention of killings by the police of innocent Men and Women of Color; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls for enactment of the federal Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, which mandates training and accountability of law enforcement officials in the unlawful use of deadly force.



#### **1. NAACP Denounce Public Utility Shut Offs**

**WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization has determined clean water is necessary for human health. Denial of clean water creates untenable challenges not only for personal hygiene, but also compromises a person's effort to be in good health; and

**WHEREAS**, low income households face some of the greatest health challenges even without the interruption of clean water service; and

**WHEREAS**, households in low income communities are financially challenged to meet daily costs of living; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has recommended consumer households should not be expected to pay more than 2.5% of the residential users household income for water and services; and

**WHEREAS**, public utilities throughout the United States lack reasonable, credible, effective processes for the provision of water and sewerage services to low income, indigent, and/or delinquent households; and

**WHEREAS**, public utilities also lack reasonable, credible, or effective processes for bringing delinquent households current in the payment of utility bills; and

**WHEREAS**, public utilities must share responsibility for its financial condition because bad investments, including disastrous interest rate swaps and bad bond deals are factors in the financial condition of utilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the states throughout the U.S. have a responsibility to assist low income and poor households to meet basic needs and standards of living. Such assistance should include adequately funding assistance programs for the financially challenged; and

**WHEREAS**, for instance in Detroit, Michigan the Department of Water and Sewerage (DWSD) has plans to weekly cut-off the clean water supply of nearly 3,000 of the poorest households in the city of Detroit; and

**WHEREAS**, DWSD shut-offs will disproportionately affect African American households; and

**WHEREAS**, water shut-offs could cause a health crisis amongst many African American households and/or the general public; and

**WHEREAS**, the DWSD and other utility companies nationwide shut offs are being done solely to impact the financial "bottom line" of the utility; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally utility companies have allowed assistance programs such as the Detroit Resident Water Assistance Program (DRWAP), the WAVE program, or the THAW programs to be underfunded or their availability inadequately publicized.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) calls upon utility services to create policies and programs that prevent low income and/or senior residents from having their utility services terminated or interrupted due to an inability to pay because of their financial conditions.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that in creating these policies the utility service should be consistent with the United Nations Resolution on Water and Sanitation.



#### **1. NAACP Support our Nation's Veterans**

**WHEREAS**, the brave men and women who have sacrificed to keep this nation free for the last 237 years have earned our respect and the right to be treated with the utmost care and dignity; and



**WHEREAS**, the vast majority of the people who have dedicated their lives to serving the needs of our nation's Veterans are dedicated, competent, and deeply committed to the men and women they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, sadly, since early May, 2014, there have been several news reports alleging that Veterans were being underserved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and specifically the Veterans' Health Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, in response to the allegations of long waiting periods for appointments at some VA Hospitals, some of which may have resulted in the untimely deaths of patients, on May 16, 2014, the Veterans Health Administration's top health official, Robert Petzel, M.D., retired early; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 30, 2014, General Eric Shinseki (Ret.) resigned from the office of the U.S. Secretary of Veterans' Affairs amid the fallout from the controversy; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Acting Secretary Sloan Gibson, the Department of Veterans Affairs is requesting \$17.6 billion to hire 10,000 doctors, nurses and other health care providers and make other reforms in order to meet the needs of a growing number of Veterans and reduce long waiting times for health care; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of these allegations, President Obama ordered an investigation, and the resulting report found "significant and chronic system failures" and a "corrosive culture" inside the Veterans Health Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, there are currently more than 21 million Veterans in the U.S. today.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the NAACP calls on Congress and the Administration to provide adequate funding, direction, and leadership to address the myriad of physical and mental health challenges faced by our Veterans of all ages; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NAACP, working through its Veterans Affairs Task Force, shall continue to monitor the efforts of the Veterans Administration to adequately serve all Veterans, throughout our Nation; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP Veterans Affairs Task Force will continue to work with state conferences and branches to refer Veterans to local services.

## NAACP NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE: 2014

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### LEON RUSSELL

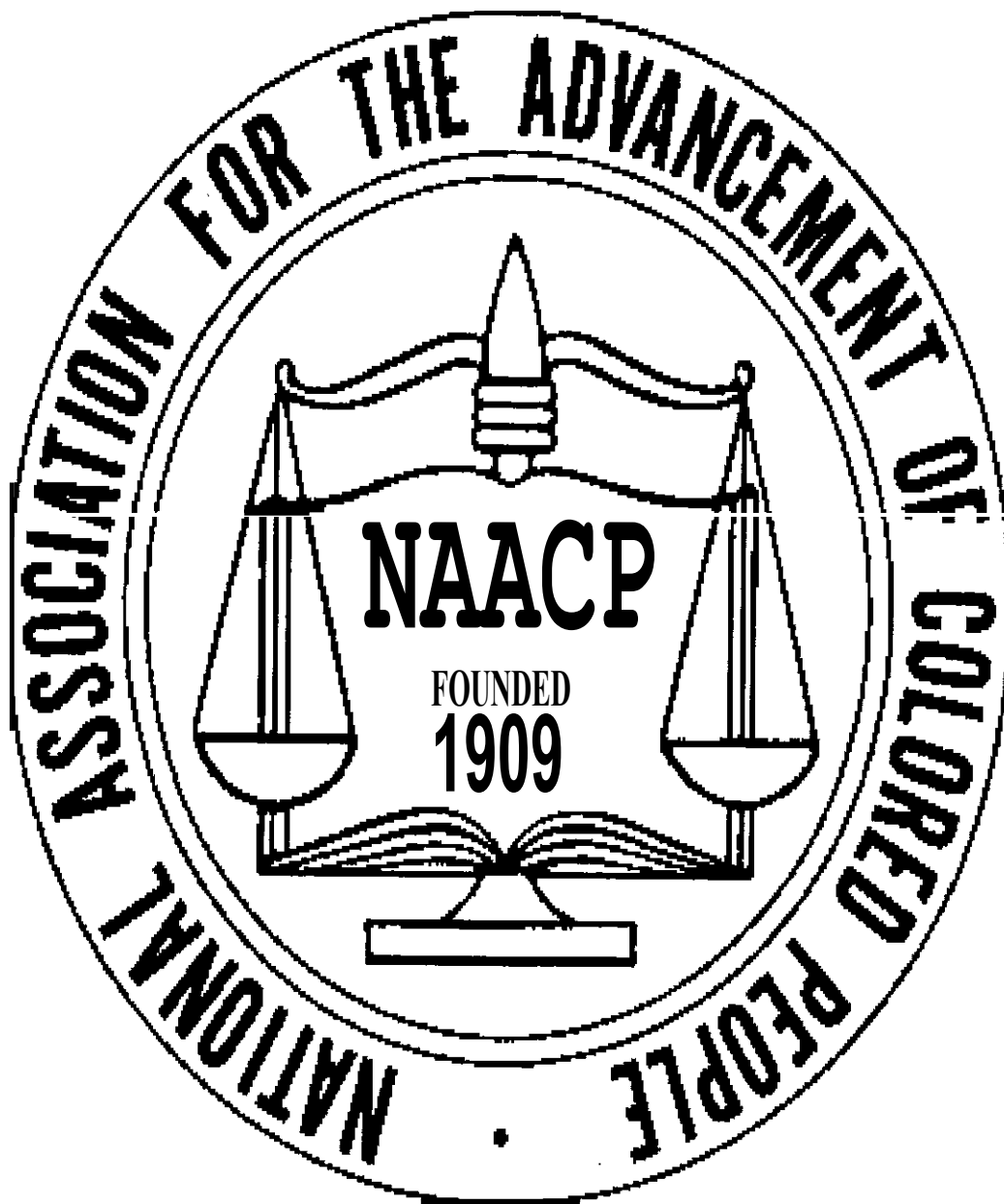
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Lanita Ross  
NAACP Legal Department  
4805 Mt. Hope Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21215  
(410) 580-5795