



Sensible Gun Safety

WHEREAS guns should not be allowed in schools and on the school campus;

WHEREAS gun violence is rampant in our society; and

WHEREAS there are currently many loopholes in gun laws and lack of enforcement of the current laws and

WHEREAS most Democrats are fully supportive of gun reform; therefore be it resolved that the guns laws of this state and the nation be reviewed, loopholes be closed, and more funding for enforcement be allocated and

WHEREAS: Automatic, large-capacity, military-style assault weapons are not designed or appropriate for sport hunting or personal defense in a civilized nation and

WHEREAS: These weapons continue to be used in an epidemic of mass killings whether obtained legally or illegally, and

WHEREAS: A ban on these weapons would not abrogate the rights preserved by the 2nd Amendment, and

WHEREAS: Guns can currently be sold at shows and other markets without thorough background checks,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that guns be restricted and gun laws be strengthened so that all people are safe; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That the SCDP will take a public position in favor of banning military-style assault weapons from civilian ownership and no type of gun sales in the absence of a thorough background check.



Criminal Justice Reform

WHEREAS, the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, holding approximately 2.3 million people in prisons and jails on any given day; and

WHEREAS, the number of people incarcerated has increased by almost a factor of eight since 1980, largely as a result of the “War on Drugs” and “tough on crime” policies created in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s; and

WHEREAS, even after release from prison, collateral consequences make it extremely difficult for people to reenter society successfully; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and Latinos make up approximately 30 percent of the nation’s population but almost sixty percent of prisoners; and

WHEREAS, unless current trends change, one in three African American male babies born today will become incarcerated at some point in his life; and

WHEREAS, approximately 5.85 million people, including one in thirteen African Americans in the United States, cannot vote as a result of laws that disenfranchise people with felony convictions; and

WHEREAS, laws, policies, and practices throughout the criminal justice system, including racial profiling and disproportionate application of mandatory minimums, have resulted in African Americans and Latinos being much more likely to be stopped, arrested, and charged with crimes, as well as more likely to serve longer prison sentences for the same crimes as whites; and

WHEREAS, recent police-involved fatalities of unarmed African American men and boys have brought issues of police reform into the national spotlight; and

WHEREAS, the men and women who go into law enforcement perform very significant responsibilities, under difficult and often dangerous circumstances, including enforcing our nation’s laws, preserving the peace, and preventing and responding to crime and terrorism, while adhering to the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, police are able to do their jobs most effectively when there is trust between them and the communities they serve and protect; and

WHEREAS, studies show that diverse police departments have an easier time building bridges with communities; and



WHEREAS, organizations have been working to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline, a phenomenon in which harsh school discipline policies that include suspensions and expulsions often lead students to drop out of school and ultimately become entangled in the criminal justice system, increasing the education gap in the United States because students of color are much more likely to be suspended or expelled than their peers; and

WHEREAS, there are multiple proposals at the federal and state levels to reform criminal justice and police policies, including reforming pretrial detention; adopting alternatives to arrest and incarceration for minor, non-violent offenses; appointing special prosecutors in cases of police involvement in fatalities of unarmed civilians and allegations of serious police misconduct; requiring law enforcement officers to wear body cameras; expanding FBI and Justice Department data collection on police use of lethal force; providing treatment, rather than incarceration, for substance abuse and mental health; limiting mandatory minimum sentences to the most serious offenses; ensuring fairness in the selection of jurors and grand jurors; focusing prisons on rehabilitation efforts; and promoting best practices to ease reentry and reduce recidivism;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democratic Party supports efforts such as those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs that prove to be effective to reduce mass incarceration, oppose racism, reform practices that disproportionately impact communities of color, create safe environments for all communities, and build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve and protect; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democratic Party work with the Department of Justice, national and local law enforcement organizations, civil rights groups, and communities to develop and promote community policing best practices—including expanded training and outreach programs to promote an inclusive, diverse and effective police force that better reflects the racial, ethnic, and religious communities it serves and protects.



Black Lives Matter

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Democratic Party upholds and advocates the ideals of equal justice and fair treatment under law, institutional accountability, social equality, and human dignity for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the African American community has historically been oppressed in the United States and South Carolina particularly stemming from a history of slavery, Jim Crow laws, and racially discriminatory policies; and

WHEREAS, there exists a clearly disproportionate rate of incarceration, police brutality, and extrajudicial killings that affects the African American community; and there exists clear examples of institutionalized racism severely affecting the African American community; and

WHEREAS, the Black Lives Matter movement's mission is to expose racism of all forms, promote racial equality and justice for the African American community, and correct a broken criminal justice system, prison industrial complex, and eliminate racial injustice in government and American society,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Democratic Party affirms and supports the Black Lives Matter movement and its mission,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the SCDP urges the government of the state of South Carolina take decisive action to end discriminatory practices of all kinds, reform systems of institutional racism, promote racial justice, and give a voice to an oppressed and marginalized community,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the SCDP urges the citizens of South Carolina to acknowledge and eliminate racism in all forms within the state to promote peace and unity for all.



Immigration Reform

WHEREAS, there are 11 million undocumented immigrants contributing to the American economy and community that are being denied basic rights and protections;

WHEREAS, the rate of deportations is at a record high with 34,000 individuals being deported daily tragically separating thousands of families;

WHEREAS, family unity has been threatened by a broken immigration system that imposes unnecessary wait times for sponsorships leaving millions awaiting reunification for decades;

WHEREAS, immigration reform must create a fair process respecting human dignity and family unity, including protection for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, and queer (LGBTIQ) families;

WHEREAS, working people are strongest when working together and the labor movement is strongest when it is open to all workers, regardless of where they come from;

WHEREAS, we as a state party have previously called for inclusive reform of our immigration laws, and adopted a position that demands a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented workers, the strengthening of family reunification as the basis of immigration policy, protection of the right to organize for all workers, the repeal of employer sanctions, and opposition to guest worker programs; and

WHEREAS, the SCDP is committed to working together on the side of justice for all, along with community partners, including civil rights, human rights and immigrant rights organizations, to pass immigration reform that encompasses the principles of this resolution and that strengthens our democracy; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SCDP calls on Congress to create a fair, humane roadmap to citizenship for 11 million undocumented immigrants that is broad and inclusive and not contingent upon border security measures or going to the “back of the line” of prospective immigrants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCDP supports family reunification by increasing legal avenues for loved ones to reunite with each other and by reducing unreasonable wait times that keep families separated; and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCDP calls on Congress and the State Legislature to ensure due process and protections at every level of immigration and to reinstate judicial review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCDP supports a reform on border enforcement by establishing safe and efficient ports of entry that promote public safety and uphold civil and human rights; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCDP calls upon Congress to provide immigrants with equal access to healthcare and other public benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCDP rejects the use of electronic employment verification systems, such as E-verify, which builds upon the flawed employer sanctions framework and pushes workers into an underground economy where workplace abuses are prevalent; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the SCDP supports immigration reform that will also address the root causes of forced migration by reforming our international trade policies to protect workers and families of all nations.



**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
TO OVERTURN *CITIZENS UNITED***

WHEREAS, free and fair elections are essential to American democracy and effective self- governance; and

WHEREAS, in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the United States Supreme Court held that independent spending on elections by corporations and other groups could not be limited by government regulation, a decision that allows for unlimited corporate spending in elections; and

WHEREAS, in reaching its decision in *Citizens United*, the Supreme Court interpreted the First Amendment of the Constitution to afford corporations the same free speech protections as natural persons; and

WHEREAS, the *Citizens United* decision has proven to be one of the Court's most controversial decisions and supersedes state and local efforts to regulate corporate activity in their campaign finance laws; and

WHEREAS, in his eloquent dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens stated that "[c]orporations have no consciences, no beliefs, no feelings, no thoughts, no desires. Corporations help structure and facilitate the activities of human beings, to be sure, and their 'personhood' often serves as a useful legal fiction. But they are not themselves members of 'We the People' by whom and for whom our Constitution was established"; and

WHEREAS, members of Congress are seeking to amend the Constitution in order to reverse the *Citizens United* decision and establish that corporations are not entitled to the entirety of protections of natural persons; and

WHEREAS, fair elections are essential to strengthening student empowerment as voters in order to advocate for issues on higher education; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the SCDP supports a change to the *Citizens United* case in order to ensure the American people's interests are at the forefront not corporations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the SCDP calls upon the United States Congress to propose a constitutional amendment overturning the United States Supreme Court's *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* ruling and related cases; and, be it

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such an amendment should assure the power of



the federal, state and local governments to limit, regulate and require disclosure of sources of all money spent to influence elections; and, be it

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the SCDP requests that the South Carolina Congressional Delegation support such an amendment, work diligently towards its passage and vote at all stages to advance such legislation in the Congress.

Economic Security

THE ENDLESS BUDGET BATTLES in Washington and Columbia are essentially disagreements over what kind of society we want to be and what kind of economy we want to have—now and in the future.

WHEREAS, Wall Street and the wealthiest Americans are refusing to pay their fair share in taxes, even if it means condemning the rest of America to high unemployment, bad jobs, low wages and economic insecurity; and

WHEREAS, Working people have a very different vision for America's future. We are demanding: (1) good jobs, full employment, and investments in infrastructure and public services to build pathways to the middle class; (2) economic security; and (3) tax fairness to make these things possible; and

WHEREAS, Americans want good jobs and full employment, and for several years, U.S. budget policies have failed to focus on the greatest economic challenge facing America—the jobs crisis—and have instead made the crisis worse; and

WHEREAS, Economic growth would be higher and millions more people would be employed if Washington and Columbia had not turned to budget cutting in 2011, when the economy still had not recovered from the Great Recession.

WHEREAS, We cannot allow short-sighted budget austerity to prevent us from fixing the economy; and

WHEREAS, even before the Great Recession, working people were faced with growing economic insecurity: less job security; fewer defined-benefit pensions; the inadequacy of 401(k) plans; lower wages that leave less money to put away toward retirement; higher health care premiums; more cost-sharing for health care; fewer unemployment benefits; and the loss of vital public services. The Great Recession made all these problems worse.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SCDP demands repeal—rather than replacement—of “sequestration.” Across-the-board budget cuts will hold back economic growth for the next decade, while repealing these cuts would boost



employment and growth. There is no economic need to replace these cuts with other harmful cuts; and

WHEREAS payday lenders charge exorbitant rates to people who can least afford them; and whereas this prevents families from establishing the financial security they need to contribute fully to our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCDP demand jobs legislation. Congress must pass jobs legislation that invests in infrastructure, education, manufacturing and energy, and helps state and local governments avoid layoffs of educators, first responders and other public service employees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCDP demand higher levels of public investment. These productive investments will not only put people to work, but also lay the foundations for long-term economic growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the appropriate response to the increase in economic insecurity is to bolster programs that provide economic security, such as Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare, Unemployment Insurance and quality public services. Working people need more economic security, not less; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we need higher levels of public investment to achieve good jobs, full employment and quality public services; we need stronger social insurance programs to provide more economic security; and we need all of these things for the benefit of young and old; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCDP oppose any cuts in Medicare, Social Security or Medicaid benefits—no matter what form they take or who proposes them. We will oppose proposals to lower Social Security cost-of-living increases; raise the Social Security retirement age; raise the Medicare eligibility age; increase income-related Medicare premiums; shift costs to Medicare beneficiaries through higher deductibles, co-pays and coinsurance; or reduce federal Medicaid payments to the states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCDP demand an across-the-board increase in Social Security benefits, which would be especially meaningful for low-income seniors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the SCDP demand higher Social Security cost-of-living increases, to reflect the higher share of seniors' incomes that goes to health care and housing; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the South Carolina general assembly cap interest rates on loans and fund programs to help people find alternate financial strategies.

Minimum Wage

WHEREAS An estimated 18% of South Carolinians live in poverty; and

WHEREAS South Carolina adheres to the federal minimum wage of only \$7.25/hour; and

WHEREAS the federal minimum wage has remained stagnant since 2009; and

WHEREAS the wealthiest 1% of Americans own more wealth than the bottom 90% of Americans; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the minimum wage be increased gradually to \$15/hour and tied to inflation.

Infrastructure

WHEREAS The South Carolina Department of Transportation is responsible for maintenance of the bridges on SC highways; and

WHEREAS The SC Department of Transportation relies on funding allocated by the South Carolina General Assembly; and

WHEREAS South Carolina roads are unsatisfactory and unsafe; and

WHEREAS there is no plan for repair or replacement; and

WHEREAS There has been no increase in the gas tax since 1987; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED The South Carolina Democratic Party support prioritized maintenance and increased funding to repair and improve South Carolina roads and bridges without stripping funding from education and/or healthcare.

Election Law Reform

WHEREAS The South Carolina Democratic Party believes we should be making it easier, not harder, for eligible citizens to vote; and



WHEREAS One must currently provide a reason for voting early absentee in person; and

WHEREAS Election officers and staff are technologically equipped and trained to conduct voter registration; and

WHEREAS Providing same day registration is the most efficient and successful way of increasing voter turnout; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democratic Party support ways to make voting easier, specifically advocating for same-day voter registration, remove the photo-ID law, and allowing eligible voters to vote 30 days prior to an election without stating a cause.

Equal Pay for Equal Work

WHEREAS Women constitute approximately half of the nation's workforce, but only make 78 cents to the dollar as compared to men; and

WHEREAS This statistic is worse for women of color; and

WHEREAS Women should receive equal pay for equal work; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SC Democratic Party support the passage of the Fair Pay Act or a comparable piece of legislation.

Equality

WHEREAS All citizens are entitled to be treated with dignity, respect, and equality; and

WHEREAS Democrats are fully supportive of the LGBTQ community; and

WHEREAS local and federal protections are necessary to ensure the protection of these rights; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the SC Democratic Party fully supports the federal and statewide version of the equality act, advocates for LGBTQ to be added to all anti-discrimination legislation, and opposes any legislation that discriminates in any way against the LGBTQ community.



Education

WHEREAS South Carolina ranks 47th in school system quality; and

WHEREAS nearly 27% of SC children live in poverty; and

WHEREAS the physical structures of public schools are crumbling; and

WHEREAS teachers are inadequately paid; and

WHEREAS the SC General Assembly has neglected to adequately fund public education for decades; and

WHEREAS everyone should be able to afford higher education in order to pursue a successful career; and

WHEREAS a generation of children has been left behind as a result of deliberate state neglect, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democratic Party advocates for fully funding public education at all levels, from pre-k to college, as well as offering two free years of public higher education and better compensating our teachers, all with the goal of investing in our children and providing them an excellent, nationally competitive education.

Environmental

WHEREAS continued use of fossil fuels is detrimental to our environment; and

WHEREAS renewable energy infrastructure is a long-term investment that combats climate change and strengthens our economy; and

WHEREAS the majority of scientists agree that climate change exists and that it is caused by human activity; and

WHEREAS the financial cost of extreme weather events will be a great burden on the state of South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, SCDP seeks to promote sustainable energy sources and maintain healthy marine and coastal ecosystems; and



WHEREAS, industrial infrastructure such as pipeline and refineries pose a threat to the state's natural, historical and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, all exploratory and commercial seismic testing and drilling will carry a risk of short and long term spills and leaks which irreparably harm the seas and its animal and plant life as demonstrated around the Country and the World; and

WHEREAS, the economic outcomes of spills, leaks and fires could be catastrophic for the state's tourism industry, businesses and workforce; and

WHEREAS, these pursuits would threaten the cultural heritage of the Gullah Geechee people and all communities in the County and State,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the South Carolina Democratic Party encourages our state and federal governments to move our energy system quickly from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy sources like wind and solar through regulatory policy and financial incentives.

International Trade

BE IT RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democrat Party calls upon our elected officials in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to support new trade deals such as the TPP only if they will:

- Exclude investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions that favor foreign companies over domestic ones and undermine public choices;
- Ensure that countries with weaker labor and environmental laws and enforcement cannot undercut U.S. based producers
- Ensure that the U.S. will engage in robust enforcement of trade rules, including labor and environmental rules;
- Include strong rule of origin to promote economic growth and job creation in the U.S.;
- Promote high standards of protection for workplaces, products, and natural resources rather than promoting a race to the bottom; and
- Put the interests of people and the planet over the interests of private profit.