



**2017 Report of the Platform & Resolutions Committee
Approved by the South Carolina Democratic Party Convention
April 29, 2017**

1. Title: BROCHURE OF CORE DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, the Democratic National Party Platform of 2016 sets forth the beliefs of Platform Committee Members as representatives from each state, as endorsed by National Delegates and the Party leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of South Carolina supports these principles and their broad dissemination to all concerned individuals and,

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon all delegates to seek effective communication of these issues, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Executive Committee devise a method to refine, condense and publish a brochure, in bookmark format, of the core principles, derived from the Democratic National Platform, to provide information for use in campaigns or for publication to supporters and the general public, with all deliberate speed, in light of approaching elections.

2. Title: COMPASSIONATE IMMIGRATION

WHEREAS, Democrats believe that immigration is a defining aspect of the American character and our shared history, and diverse cultures strengthen the United States, and

WHEREAS, Democrats believe that the U.S. immigration system should be inclusive, fair, and just, and

WHEREAS, Immigration is not a matter of homeland security, but a matter of human security, and

WHEREAS, Democrats support policies that fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our communities, and

WHEREAS, Immigrants to South Carolina substantially contribute to our state and local economics,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democratic Party stands with immigrants, particularly those seeking access to the promise of the United States and the 'American Dream' for themselves and their families; and supports comprehensive immigration reform that is consistent with the values of freedom, opportunity, compassion, and respect for human rights, and addresses fairness, country of origin, family reunification, family unity, and a path to earned legal residency for undocumented immigrants in our communities, and

BE IT FURTHER THEREFORE RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democratic Party condemns and calls for an end to the Trump Administration and the Republican Party's attacks on immigrant families and, instead, calls upon the Trump Administration and Republicans to work with Democrats to enact compassionate and comprehensive immigrant reform.

3. Title: TO ENACT A STATUTE COMPARABLE TO SC HOUSE BILL 3416 OF 2017

WHEREAS, South Carolina's environment is the common property of all South Carolinians, and

WHEREAS, all people must have clean air and water to preserve their health, and

WHEREAS, the conservation of South Carolina’s environment, including its clean air, pure water, and natural and scenic values, is fundamental and should be protected and preserved for all South Carolinians, including generations yet to come, and

WHEREAS, the people of South Carolina have a right to enjoy South Carolina’s environment, and the people of our State have the authority and legal standing to enforce this right, and

WHEREAS, as trustees of South Carolina’s environment, the state government and local governments shall conserve South Carolina’s environment, including its clean air, pure water, and natural and scenic values for the benefit of all people. This duty applies to the State of South Carolina and to every city, town and county in the State. Local governments have the power to enact laws, regulations, ordinances, and charter provisions that are more restrictive and protective of the environment than laws or regulations enacted or adopted pursuant to this article conflicts with the state law or regulation, the more restrictive and protective law or regulation governs.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democratic Party endorses Clean Air and Water Bill of Rights comparable to the Joint Resolution introduced by Representative Joe Neal in SC House Bill 3416.

4. Title: ADOPTION OF A MEDICAL MODEL TO COMBAT ADDICTION TO HARMFUL DRUGS, BOTH PRESCRIPTIVE AND ILLICIT AND DECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUG USE

WHEREAS, current policies and law, based on a moral judgement model, are ineffective as evidenced by the failed “War on Drugs,” and according to the website www.stanford.edu, the United States, while focusing its efforts on criminalization of drug use, has spent billions of dollars trying to eradicate the availability of illicit drugs in America,

WHEREAS, the War on Drugs has resulted in the racially discriminatory, unconstitutional targeting of African American communities,

WHEREAS, two generations of African American men, women, and children have been unlawfully incarcerated to the lasting detriment of themselves, their families, and communities,

WHEREAS, the laws that made the War on Drugs possible remain in force and continue to be enforced to the detriment of African American communities in South Carolina and nationwide, and

WHEREAS, www.stanford.edu studies show that medical and mental health treatment, instead of law enforcement and incarceration, are the more effective ways to decrease drug abuse and addiction, further demonstrating that effective drug policies and law should treat drug addiction as a disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Democratic Party will advocate for effective legislation to adequately fund a medical model that will significantly increase treatment facilities and programs for drug addiction and abuse, both prescriptive and illicit, and for effective legislation to repeal all laws in criminalized drug use at the state and federal levels.

5. Title: ENACTMENT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA COMPASSIONATE CARE ACT

WHEREAS, the US Food and Drug Administration has exclusive authority in the United States to classify and approve drugs for medical uses, and

WHEREAS, caregivers and patients are searching for treatment options for unmet medical needs, particularly for epilepsy, Alzheimer’s disease, cancers, and the effects of chemotherapy, and

WHEREAS, the cannabis plant in various forms including oils, creams, drops and liquids has shown some promise in treating these medical conditions, and

WHEREAS, the US Food and Drug Administration has nevertheless approved at least two drugs containing SYNTHETIC versions of THC, and

WHEREAS, in order to get more rapid relief to caregivers and patients, state legislatures in 28 states have chosen to approve cannabis for medical use in spite of the FDA's failure to study and evaluate the medicinal potential.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Democratic Party endorses and supports SC House Bill 3521 known as the South Carolina Compassionate Care Act co-sponsored by Representative Mandy Powers Norrell and others.

6. Title: TO ENDORSE AND SUPPORT CONTINUED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ALSO KNOWN AS OBAMACARE.

WHEREAS, the Republican Party and its leaders have exhibited the intent to provide greater profits for the health insurance industry while continuing to allow high mortality rates and financial bankruptcy to affect Americans, and

WHEREAS, we believe it is a human right, and not a privilege, for every person to have a basic level of guaranteed health care coverage, and

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the South Carolina Democratic Party supports and endorses continued improvements and expansions being made to the Affordable Care Act (ACA), also known as Obamacare, to preserve its intent and enlarge its participation, with direction toward ultimate adoption of health care coverage for all.

7. Title: A RESOLUTION ON PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

WHEREAS, Donald Trump's political rhetoric has long trafficked in xenophobia, religious bigotry, racism, sexism, anti-empiricism, and false promises;

WHEREAS, the U.S. intelligence community has concluded that Russia meddled in the 2016 presidential election with the goals of harming Hillary Clinton's campaign and improving Donald Trump's chances of winning;

WHEREAS, FBI Director James Comey has stated that an investigation is ongoing into whether Donald Trump's campaign and associates colluded in the Russian attack on American democracy;

WHEREAS, Trump abandoned the decades-old practice of presidential candidates releasing their tax returns, indicating the presence of information in those documents that he wishes to conceal;

WHEREAS, despite campaign promises to advance the interests of regular Americans, President Trump has pursued an agenda to benefit the ultra-wealthy while harming the middle class and those striving to enter the middle class;

WHEREAS, one of the first actions of the Trump Administration was to increase the cost of buying a home by reversing a planned cut in Federal Housing Administration loan fees;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration unsuccessfully advocated the American Health Care Reform Act, which would have taken health insurance away from 24 million Americans;

WHEREAS, President Trump appointed an utterly unqualified Cabinet, including an Attorney General who threatens hard-won gains on voting rights and criminal justice, a Secretary of Education with little knowledge of public education or interest in its success, an Environmental Protection Agency Director who has fought environmental protection and

championed the interests of corporate polluters, a Secretary of Energy who previously called for his department's elimination, a Secretary of Housing and Urban Development whose own spokesman admitted he lacked the requisite experience to manage a federal agency, a Secretary of Health and Human Services who has benefited financially from his official actions as a member of Congress impacting the health sector, and a Secretary of State and United Nations Ambassador lacking foreign policy experience;

WHEREAS, after calling during the campaign for a ban on all Muslims entering the United States, President Trump has issued multiple versions of a ban on travel to the United States by nationals of several Muslim-majority countries, despite both versions being struck down by multiple federal judges and despite the Department of Homeland Security concluding that the ban would not strengthen national security;

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration's rejection of the bipartisan consensus on comprehensive immigration reform has broken up families, harmed communities, and abandoned the openness to immigrants that has made America great;

WHEREAS, President Trump's executive order to reverse the Obama Administration's progress in promoting clean energy threatens to harm public health, reduce American competitiveness, and leave coastal areas to be engulfed by rising sea levels;

WHEREAS, following Senate Republicans' unprecedented refusal last year to hold a hearing to consider President Obama's nomination of Judge Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court, despite the fact that Republican Senator Orrin Hatch referred to him as a "consensus nominee," President Trump appointed right-wing ideologue Neil Gorsuch, who was confirmed only after Senate Republicans changed Senate rules to eliminate the 60-vote requirement to end debate;

WHEREAS, the President's Fiscal Year 2018 budget proposal would inflict massive cuts to investments in critical national priorities, including education, nutrition, infrastructure, scientific research, public health, housing, diplomacy, and environmental protection;

WHEREAS, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, former South Carolina Congressman Mick Mulvaney, in defending these proposed cuts, said that providing food to kids at after-school programs was not "helping results" and that Meals on Wheels was "just not showing any results"; and

WHEREAS, an unprecedented level of resistance has arisen nationwide to fight the harmful policies advanced by the Trump Administration and Republicans in Congress, including the Women's March, Indivisible groups, and countless other grassroots efforts;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that:

The South Carolina Democratic Party is committed to:

Galvanizing opposition to President Trump's divisive agenda;

Making it clear to all South Carolinians how they will be harmed by President Trump's policies and how they will be helped by Democratic alternatives;

Organizing efforts to persuade our elected representatives to oppose the Trump Administration's harmful agenda;

Electing candidates to Congress and other offices who will block the enactment of Trump's harmful policies and who will advocate positive alternatives;

Facilitating the 2020 First in the South Primary to give all South Carolina Democrats ample opportunity to become fully informed about all the Democratic candidates running to succeed President Trump; and

Uniting behind our 2020 presidential nominee to ensure that a Democratic president is inaugurated in 2021 so that the harm caused by the Trump Administration can be fixed and we can resume our journey toward a more perfect Union.

8. Title: PROGRESSIVE DNC PLATFORM

WHEREAS, the Democratic National Convention passed the most Progressive Platform in the history of the Democratic Party.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the South Carolina Democratic Party adopts this platform in its entirety and pledges to focus on enactment on a state-wide level.