

## **DRAFT RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the United States is a champion of human rights around the world and has a deep commitment to rule of law, civic engagement and promoting a culture of human rights here at home; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States does not have a comprehensive and coordinated approach to human rights promotion and protection at the federal, state, local and tribal levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the UN Human Rights Council, an intergovernmental body within the United Nations made up of 47 nations responsible for the promotion and protection of all human rights around the globe, adopted Resolution 51/31 on National Human Rights Institutions (“NHRIs”), which unequivocally encourages all UN member nations “to establish effective, independent, and pluralistic national human rights institutions;” and

**WHEREAS**, the United States does not have an NHRI or similar mechanism for human rights implementation conforming with the Principles Relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions (“Paris Principles”), which were adopted by the UN General Assembly on March 4, 1994, and which set out the minimum standards that NHRIs must meet in order to be considered credible and to operate effectively; and

**WHEREAS**, NHRIs or similar mechanisms such as ombudsmen, have been established in 130 countries including Canada and Mexico, 38 European nations, 16 South American nations, 28 Asian-Pacific nations, and 33 African nations; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States has continuously supported the establishment of NHRIs in other countries supplying both funding and technical assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of an NHRI in the United States could provide focus and direction to national efforts to promote and protect the array of human rights, and provide important assistance to the efforts of state and local human rights commissions; and

**WHEREAS**, multiple United Nations human rights bodies and independent experts have called upon the United States to establish an NHRI with increasing urgency, including the November 2023 concluding observation by the UN Human Rights Committee, a body of independent human rights experts which monitors the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (“ICCPR”), which called on the United States to “establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles *as a matter of priority*;” and

**WHEREAS**, establishing an NHRI has broad support among civil society organizations in the United States, as shown by multiple coalition letters, petitions and reports, which have

been submitted to the federal government within the past two years, as well as letters from Members of Congress supporting the establishment of an NHRI; and

**WHEREAS**, an NHRI would allow for unprecedented progress towards domestic implementation of the United States' international human rights commitments and further strengthen our American culture of rule of law, civic enfranchisement and domestic human rights;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, [ENTITY NAME HERE] urges the United States government to immediately establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and urges other states, cities, counties and tribal governments to pass similar resolutions calling for the establishment of a United States National Human Rights Institution.