

RESOLUTIONS

**Ratified by the National Board of
Directors at its October 2019 Board
of Directors Meeting**

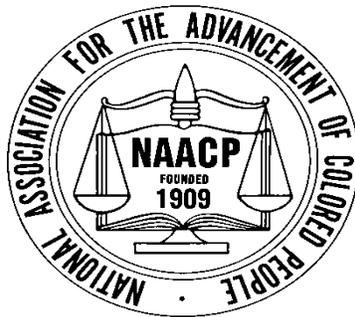
2019

**RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED UNDER ARTICLE IX,
SECTION 1 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NAACP
2019**

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 110th Convention of the NAACP, held July 20 through July 24, 2019 in Detroit, Michigan. These resolutions were ratified by the National Board of Directors on October 19, 2019 and are now the Official Policy of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

NAACP
RESOLUTIONS APPROVED BY THE RESOLUTIONS
COMMITTEE
(Ratified by the Board of Directors)
2019

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CIVIL RIGHTS

1. NAACP Condemnation of Islamophobia

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race; and

WHEREAS, Islamophobia is the fear, hatred of, or prejudice against Muslims or persons of the Islamic religion, especially when seen as a geopolitical force or the source of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, Islamophobia and anti-Muslim sentiments have resulted in the targeting, harassment, vilification, torture, and death of many black and brown people of the Muslim faith; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stands firmly against terrorism and acts of violence against houses of worship; and

WHEREAS, in an NAACP statement against one of the Muslim bans, the NAACP stated “*Just as we fight against voter suppression and police brutality, the NAACP continued to stand against discrimination based on racial identity, ethnicity, national origin, or religion. We know that actions based on unfounded assumptions about that which one’s knowledge is limited leads to dangerousness and often times violence will always come at the expense of the most vulnerable populations,*” and “*We will continue to fight for equal rights of all, for policies based on evidence not fear*”; and

WHEREAS, anti-Muslim acts, such as vandalism, desecration of mosques, and acts of violence against persons, throughout the United States have increased over the last decade. There have been over 763 reported anti-Muslim incidents that have occurred since 2011; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar is the first and only hijab-wearing, Muslim Congresswoman in the history of the United States. Within her first few months serving in the

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U.S. Congress, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar was targeted and vilified by the White House, members of Congress, the media and government officials. An anti-Muslim display was erected in the Charleston, West Virginia capitol rotunda, aimed at Congresswoman Omar. Congresswoman Omar was placed on a white supremacist “hit list” after she was targeted; and

WHEREAS, countless Muslim Americans have been the victims of Islamophobic attacks and death threats. A hijab-wearing, Muslim college student was attacked at San Diego State University. A 22-year old, hijab-wearing, pre-med student was nearly run over at the University of Cincinnati and called a terrorist by the driver. In New York, three boys attacked a 6th grade Muslim girl for wearing a hijab and called her “ISIS.” On December 5, 2015, a Muslim shop owner in Queens, NY was attacked by a man shouting “kill all Muslims;” and

WHEREAS, four Muslim passengers were removed from a Spirit airplane at Baltimore Washington International airport after a passenger expressed fear after one of the Muslim passengers looked at his cell phone before take-off. At Philadelphia airport, two Palestinians were detained and questioned before boarding a Southwest flight for speaking Arabic; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP condemns Islamophobia, anti-Muslim, xenophobic, and anti-brown & black sentiments and urges action to prevent the discriminatory targeting, vilification, harassment, torturing, and death of innocent lives.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon the White House to refrain from propagation of intolerance, vitriol, divisiveness and Islamophobia and to launch a White House Leadership Conference to address Islamophobia and cultural diversity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP appeals to the United States Congress to show leadership by example in condemnation of any and all intolerance and Islamophobic/anti-Muslim rhetoric within its own establishment.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP encourages its units to support educational awareness opportunities to promote dialogue, understanding and tolerance.

2. *Eliminate Gender Disparities and Advancing Gender Equity*

WHEREAS, Black, Latino, Native/Indigenous and/or Asian women, also frequently grouped together as “women of color,” make up a growing population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, women of color - Latino, Black, Southeast Asian and Native/Indigenous women in particular - continue to earn far below their white male counterparts for the same, similar or substantially similar work; and

WHEREAS, a 2014 report authored by the Center for American Progress, *Women of Color A Growing Force in the American Electorate*, documented demographic trends in 2008, 2012 and

2013 election cycles where women of color made a critical difference in victories for progressive candidates, establishing that, “While not a monolithic group, women of color comprise an important demographic that can, when acting in concert on issues of common concern, have a profound impact not just on elections but on public policy as well”; and

WHEREAS, even when controlling for all other factors, Black women experience disproportionately negative outcomes, particularly in the areas of maternal health and morbidity, the highest HIV diagnoses when compared with other women, and higher rates of mortality from breast cancer, among numerous other racially disproportionate health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Black women and girls live at the intersection of sexism and racism compounding the discrimination that contributes to the racial and gender wealth gaps which limit black women’s access to educational opportunities and negatively impacts their career advancement; and

WHEREAS, according to Institute for Women’s Policy Research 2017 report, *The Status of Black Women in the United States*, Black women are more likely to work in lower-paying service occupations than any other industry and are less likely to work in the higher-paying engineering and tech fields or managerial positions and the percentage of Black women who are full-time minimum-wage workers is higher than that of any other racial group; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of Black women are the sole or primary breadwinners for their households and these pay and wealth disparities have an effect on their entire families and a fair salary can create stability and support for a family.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP stands in favor of policy priorities that seek to advance gender equity with attention to the particular disparities faced by women of color.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work to identify key local issues that seek to close gender disparities in our communities.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

1. *Supports Imposing a National Surcharge on Bullet Sales to Offset Healthcare and Infrastructure Costs*

WHEREAS, easy access to guns is a major and deadly problem in the United States today; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, every day, on average more than 42 Americans were killed by gun violence; there were more than 31,000 firearm-related injuries that year; and

WHEREAS, “survivors” of gun violence are often crippled, with many in constant pain; children are left as orphans; parents and family members are left broken and destroyed, unable to learn, study, or make a living; and whole communities are terrorized, fractured, and scarred; and

WHEREAS, gun violence disproportionately impacts communities of color in the United States. Despite the fact that African Americans make up only 12% of the U.S. population, we represent nearly 50% of all gun homicide victims; and

WHEREAS, researchers conservatively estimate that gun violence costs the American economy at least \$229 billion every year, including \$8.6 billion in direct expenses such as for emergency and medical care. Gun violence costs more than \$700 per American every year, more than the total economic cost of obesity and almost as much as the annual price tag for the entire Medicaid program; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has passed comprehensive resolutions supporting numerous initiatives which, if fully implemented, would dramatically decrease gun violence as well as the damage caused by and costs associated with gun violence including its 2013 resolution, “*NAACP Supports Safe, Sane and Sensible Laws to Prevent Gun Violence*” and its recent 2018 resolution, “*Gun Control in the Wake of the Parkland High School Massacre*”; and

WHEREAS, ammunition is currently easier to purchase in many places than cold medicine: across the nation bullets are subject to fewer regulations than guns. They are sold everywhere from vending machines to jewelry stores; and

WHEREAS, government surcharges have been a standard policy lever used to limit and address the harms associated with potentially dangerous goods such as cigarettes and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, a few local jurisdictions have begun to levy surcharges on ammunition, including Seattle, Washington and Cook County, Illinois; and

WHEREAS, there is no way of accurately assessing the amount of ammunition currently sold in the U.S. every year: estimates of the number of rounds sold are anywhere from 8 to 15 billion.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its gun violence prevention resolutions and is committed to ending the damage done by firearms to our families, our communities, and our nation.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP further supports a national surcharge on ammunition, the proceeds of which should go towards our local, state, and national health care needs and systems to help alleviate the high monetary cost of gun violence.

2. Supports Decriminalization and Regulation of Medical-and Adult-Use of Cannabis

WHEREAS, the origins of cannabis prohibition in the United States, in the early part of the 20th century, were tainted with racism, with prohibitionists stoking fears about Mexican immigrants using “marijuana” and connecting the use of marijuana to African-American jazz musicians; and

WHEREAS, cannabis was officially outlawed for any use (medical included) with the passage of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970; and

WHEREAS, since the mid-1990s, advocates have succeeded in passing state medical cannabis laws so that patients with certain qualifying conditions are able to obtain and use cannabis to alleviate their suffering. Today, 33 states, along with the District of Columbia and four U.S. territories, have effective medical cannabis laws; and

WHEREAS, beginning with Colorado and Washington in 2012, 10 states, along with the District of Columbia and two U.S. territories, have made the possession and use of cannabis legal for all adults. In nearly all of these states, the laws have also allowed for regulated production and sale of cannabis and cannabis products; and

WHEREAS, while these medical and adult-use cannabis states have generated many billions of dollars of cannabis sales and created hundreds of thousands of jobs, the industry is not creating as much opportunity for minorities as it could; and

WHEREAS, despite significant changes in cannabis laws in the U.S. over the past 23 years, a disproportionate number of African-American adults continue to be subjected to arrests, imprisonment, and other punishments related to cannabis. For example, the American Civil

Liberties Union reported in 2013 that African Americans are 3.73 times as likely to be arrested for cannabis possession despite using cannabis at approximately the same rate as the white population; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the NAACP passed an emergency resolution called, “NAACP Supports a National Study on the Impact and Consequences of Marijuana Enforcement on African-American Communities” which cited a number of disturbing facts about the disproportionate number of African Americans who were incarcerated due to low-level, non-violent marijuana offenses; and

WHEREAS, at its October 2013 meeting, the NAACP National Board of Directors passed an Action Item entitled “NAACP supports allowing states to decrease penalties for low-level drug possession” which supported a prohibition on the federal enforcement of marijuana laws in states which have lesser penalties; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the NAACP passed a resolution calling for “the uniform decriminalization of cannabis possession under one (1) ounce,” as well as “the pardon of persons previously convicted of non-violent cannabis crimes.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its support for the decriminalization of cannabis; endorses legal, regulated markets for medical and adult-use cannabis; and urges greater diversity in the cannabis industry, with respect to both ownership and employment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for the automatic expungement of records for persons with past convictions for non-violent cannabis use and possession.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP requests Congress to modify the Internal Revenue Code, Section 280 (e), to allow business people in the cannabis industry to place their money in the bank and get normal business tax deductions.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for Congress to remove cannabis from the list of federal controlled substances and provide federal grants to states seeking to implement entrepreneurship opportunities and job creation in the cannabis industry for low-income individuals and people of color from communities that have been disproportionately impacted by marijuana arrests and prosecutions.

3. *Missing African American Women and Children in the United States of America*

WHEREAS, according to the *National Crime Information Center*, nearly 40 percent of those who have disappeared are black. However, many allege that the media focuses on white women who have disappeared as opposed to African-American women and their children; and

WHEREAS, the Black and Missing Foundation reported in 2010 that a total of 273,985 minorities were reported missing in the United States out of 692,944 for all races. They also report that most women disappear in the states of New York, Georgia, North Carolina, Maryland, and Florida; and

WHEREAS, many black women and children have been missing for decades, while hundreds of African-American families are left with the pain of wondering what has happened to their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, currently, more than 64,000 black women remain missing across the United States; and

WHEREAS, despite representing 12.85% of the population, black Americans accounted for nearly 226,000 or 34% of all missing persons reported in 2012. According to the *FBI's National Crime Information Center*, the comparison with other racial groups is unfavorable. Whites and non-white Hispanics are a combined 80% of the population, but account for 60% of missing persons; and

WHEREAS, when the numbers are broken down by age, the Black and Missing Foundation's 2014 Report shows that 37% of missing minors and 28% of missing adults in 2013 were black. No fewer than 270,000 minorities have gone missing nationwide since 2010, 135,000 of whom were black and 64,000 of whom were black women and girls; and

WHEREAS, according to the *National Crime Information Center*, there were 170,899 missing black children under age 18 in the United States in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the news media's reporting regarding the missing raises concern. Critics cite a stark variation in news coverage of missing African Americans, and, in particular, African Women and children versus coverage of missing persons of other races.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Color People will conduct new research and update existing research regarding African-American women and children who are missing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will host town hall meetings between lawmakers, law enforcement, Justice Department officials, and child advocate groups regarding missing black women and their children.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Association of Colored People will insist that all media coverage of missing persons be equal regardless of race, will work to make the names of missing African-American women and children permanent fixtures on Twitter and other social media, will advocate that nationwide man hunts or search parties take place with respect to missing African-American women and children, and will insist that the families of missing African-American women and children be treated fairly in their time of their greatest need.

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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will advocate that more federal funding be allocated to agencies, groups, and organizations for the purpose of researching and locating missing women and children of color.

4. NAACP Calls for an Investigation of Fatal Police-Involved Shootings Around the Nation

WHEREAS, The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the nation's premier civil rights organization, issued a strong statement supporting the Sacramento Branch and the California State Conference following the fatal shooting of Stephon Clark by a Sacramento police officer; and

WHEREAS, as our organization and the nation engages in a critical discussion on gun violence and police misconduct, we must not ignore the continual stream of men, women, and children whose lives are lost due to police firearms. African-Americans are less than 13 percent of the total U.S. population but account for 23% of those shot by police in 2017, according to the Washington Post. The deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Walter Scott, Freddie Gray, Alton Sterling, Philando Castille, Tamir Rice, Laquan McDonald, and Stephone Clark are unacceptable; and

WHEREAS, our national president, Derrick Johnson, wrote, "We are tired of the apologies, tired of murder being justified on the sole basis that an armed officer feared harm. This is not right and the NAACP refuses to accept this." So this is a call to put some teeth behind that statement; and

WHEREAS, President Johnson further stated that "[a]lthough the White House would have us believe that the killings of Mr. Sterling and Mr. Clark are simply 'local matter[s]', we know better. (The numbers above prove him incorrect). The federal government has a duty to enforce federal civil rights laws, a duty to ensure that we live in a nation where local authorities do not kill us with impunity. We refuse to accept the White House's abdication of responsibility."

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP not only fiercely condemn these latest examples of our justice system's failure to protect Black lives, but illuminate this history to Congress and ask for a federal investigation of alleged law enforcement violations across the country.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will work with its social justice partners in seeking legal remedies for unlawful killings of Blacks by police officers.

5. *The Call for the NAACP to Support Bail Reform in America*

WHEREAS, Africans American and Latinos are disproportionately impacted by having to post bail; and

WHEREAS, 50 percent of pre-trial detainees are African American or Latino in the United States, with an average annual income of less than \$20,000 prior to incarceration; and

WHEREAS, all people who have not been convicted of a crime should be afforded a presumption of innocence, yet many are still jailed because they cannot afford bail; and

WHEREAS, the presumption of guilt and dangerousness assigned to African Americans has made minority communities particularly vulnerable to the unfair administration of criminal justice; and

WHEREAS, many people are currently in jail for lack of financial resources, and not because they are a flight risk or danger to the public.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2017 resolution opposing money bail.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support efforts to implement risk assessment systems to replace money bail.

6. *Decertification of Law Enforcement Officers*

WHEREAS, California is one of six states (along with New York, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Massachusetts , and Hawaii) that lacks the authority to revoke police officers' licenses to serve-a process known as "decertification;" and

WHEREAS, decertification is the process by which a state authority determines that an individual should not be allowed to continue exercising the duties and privileges of a law enforcement officer, typically through revoking a license; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers express the government's monopoly on the use of force and should be held to the highest possible public standard; and

WHEREAS, American law enforcement remains institutionally driven toward the coercion of the poor and people of color, most recently demonstrated again in the vicious murder of Stephon Clark; and

WHEREAS, due to the potential and actual dangers of American law enforcement, who kill more of their own citizens than other parallel agencies in the industrialized world by an almost

unimaginable margin, the public must retain powers to prevent corrupt, incompetent, ineffective, and/or otherwise dangerous law enforcement officers from service; and

WHEREAS, in states without decertification authority, officers removed or disciplined by one law enforcement agency or department are not prevented from employment in other agencies or departments; and

WHEREAS, many police departments have a financial incentive to bring on experienced officers- even those with questionable records- in order to avoid the cost of training new (“rookie”) officers; and

WHEREAS, training for law enforcement is arguably underfunded, out-of-date, and lacks a mechanism for tracking attendance, course quality, and decertification; and

WHEREAS, other public professionals, arguably with fewer potential dangers to the public, can be decertified for the public good and the legitimacy of the profession (lawyers can be disbarred, doctors can have their licenses revoked, even beauticians can lose their license!); and

WHEREAS, decertification is essential to building community trust in law enforcement, in that it shows the state will not tolerate policing below a specific standard; and

WHEREAS, P.O.S.T, officials already claim to use a common index of officers with troublesome disciplinary records, and encourage their law enforcement agencies to query it when considering a new candidate; and

WHEREAS, The National Law Enforcement Academy Resource Network [NLEARN] already links all United States law enforcement training academies and provides a variety of information to law enforcement training managers and others interested in the different states' requirements for peace officer certification.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for all state governments to develop and implement an efficient and effective process to decertify law enforcement officers who violate the law or fail to meet minimum public standards for law enforcement professionals.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for all state governments to report decertified officers to a national decertification index to ensure that decertification is effective across state lines.

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7. Opposition to Stacking Charges

WHEREAS, prosecutors routinely “stack charges” against a defendant, thus building a very long potential prison sentence if the defendant is convicted, and then approach the defendant with a “plea deal” that would result in a guaranteed, substantially reduced charge and sentence if the defendant agrees to plead guilty to the reduced offense; and

WHEREAS, the stacking of charges has become standard practice to build such a horrifying potential sentence that even actually innocent people will be intimidated into pleading guilty, rather than face what’s called the “trial penalty” – a long sentence if the defendant should somehow be convicted at trial; and

WHEREAS, African Americans and other people of color are most likely to face arrest, and thereby be subjected to the stacking of charges.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stands opposed to prosecutors stacking charges.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NAACP units will actively advocate against policies and practices resulting in the stacking of charges by prosecutors at every level of government.

8. Law Enforcement Accountability for Use of Bad Tactics and Changes in Standards for Law Enforcement Initiated Deaths

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers are trained on various levels of force, including less than lethal weaponry, self-defense procedures, and de-escalation training; and

WHEREAS, *Tennessee v. Garner*, 471 U.S. 1 (1985), held that under the Fourth Amendment, when a law enforcement officer is pursuing a fleeing suspect, the officer may not use deadly force to prevent escape unless "the officer has probable cause to believe that the suspect poses a significant threat of death or serious physical injury to the officer or others;" and

WHEREAS, as a result of *Tennessee v. Garner*, law enforcement officers simply must state that they feared for their life after shooting a person; and

WHEREAS, existing law authorizes a law enforcement officer to use reasonable force to effect arrest, prevent escape, or overcome resistance but does not require an officer to retreat or desist from an attempt to make an arrest because of resistance or threatened resistance of the person being arrested; and

WHEREAS, many law enforcement related homicides, deprive individuals of due process, while the Sixth Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right to a public trial; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement officers must be held accountable for the excessive use of force and/or use of unauthorized tactics which results in a homicide.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP, and all its units, will work to update legislative language to hold law enforcement officers accountable for the excessive use of force and/or use of unauthorized tactics which results in a homicide.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will work to legislatively redefine the circumstances under which a homicide by a peace officer is deemed justifiable, so as to move away from the *Tennessee v. Garner* standard and toward a standard which states that a homicide is justified when the homicide is in self-defense, or the defense of another, consistent with the existing legal standard for self-defense.

9. *Require All Law Enforcement Agencies to Track and Report Hate Crimes to the F.B.I Uniform Crime Reporting System*

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) Civil Rights Division defines hate crimes as "criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity"; and

WHEREAS, most hate crimes are never reported to law enforcement because targeted communities may not feel safe reporting them, may reasonably doubt that law enforcement would respond effectively, may find reporting too cumbersome, or—especially in the case of Black or immigrant communities— may distrust of law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, immigrant communities may specifically fear deportation and/or detention if they step forward; and

WHEREAS, existing hate crime legislation provides authority to federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors to investigate and prosecute hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, there is a "hate crimes reporting gap" between the number of actual hate crimes committed, the number of hate crimes reported to local law enforcement, and the number of hate crimes reported to the FBI; and

WHEREAS, the hate crimes reporting gap is problematic because it suggests we don't know the actual frequency of hate crimes, or whether current efforts to stop them are effective; and

WHEREAS, the failure to count or address hate crimes erodes the trust and relationship between communities of color and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement hate crime reporting to the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting System [UCR] is voluntary, and is thus subject to the whims, politics, available resources, and perceived priorities of law enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS, in its most recent UCR report, which was released in November, 2018, the FBI reported that at least 91 cities with populations exceeding 100,000 people either did not report any data to the FBI or affirmatively reported zero hate crimes; and

WHEREAS, officers and prosecutors may need training to identify, investigate, and accurately report hate crimes and bias incidents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support national legislation to incentivize and encourage jurisdictions to accurately and uniformly report hate crimes to the FBI.

10. *Automatic Expungement & Internet Crawler Applications for Internet Identity Clean-up*

WHEREAS, criminal-record expungement and sealing laws are an increasingly utilized reform to allow persons who have come into contact with the criminal justice system to move on from their past and have equal access to employment and housing, unburdened by the stigma of a criminal record years later; and

WHEREAS, arrest records and other documents relating to a criminal case often remain accessible to the public even though the case has been resolved favorably to the defendant and the defendant has not been convicted of any offense; and

WHEREAS, under such circumstances, the burden should not fall on the defendant to seek expungement of the arrest records and other documents relating to the criminal case; rather, the burden should be on the police, State's attorney and court system to expunge such records from their records without any request from the defendant; and

WHEREAS, even when a person's criminal record has been officially expunged and sealed, the information often remains available on the internet because third parties have republished the information, and the availability of that information can harm the person's employment and housing prospects, among other possible harms; and

WHEREAS, automatic internet crawlers operate as a powerful internet search tool that could be usefully deployed to locate and remove from the internet records that have been expunged and /or sealed by the court system.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP shall advocate for automatic expungement of criminal records when a defendant has not been convicted of the charges offense(s).

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP shall advocate for the deployment of web crawler applications to locate and remove from the internet, and otherwise to correct in the public record, information relating to expunged and sealed criminal records.

11. *Abolish Private Prisons*

WHEREAS, the private prison industry profits from the incarceration and labor of citizens; and

WHEREAS, private prisons consider incarcerated citizens as cash-cow stock; and

WHEREAS, private prisons exploit prison labor for pennies on the dollar; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry redirects jobs from the public into their prisons; and

WHEREAS, statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice show that as of 2013, there were 133,000 state and federal prisoners housed in privately-owned prisons in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the private prison industry serves to undermine and pervert the U.S. Constitution and corrupt the Legislative and Judicial branches of our government to the point that these branches could no longer protect the citizens, thus making them vulnerable to loss of their freedom and livelihood for the sake of financial gains; and

WHEREAS, private prisons get up to 40% federally compensated wage tax breaks, shifting the cost/burdens to the citizens while making themselves a profit; and

WHEREAS, data on private prison conditions shows an increase in overall prison violence, which includes violence affecting those incarcerated and assaults against correctional officers and correctional staff.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP shall work toward the abolition of private prisons.

12. Formerly Incarcerated/Ex-Offender Employment Opportunity Act

WHEREAS, the Prison Policy Initiative has released a report entitled "Out of Prison & Out of Work" that calculates the unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated ex-offenders to be 27 percent above the national average; and

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated Black males is 35.2% whereas the unemployment rate for non-offender Black males is 7.7%; and

WHEREAS, the unemployment rate for formerly incarcerated Black females is 43.6%; and

WHEREAS, formerly incarcerated people want to work, but face structural barriers to securing employment, particularly within the period immediately following release.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP reaffirms its efforts under the Million Jobs Campaign and urge all units to work toward the objectives of the Million Job Campaign.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP shall advocate that all businesses that contract with federal, state, and local correctional facilities in all 50 states be contractually required to provide detailed reporting on its recruitment and hiring of formerly incarcerated individuals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each State Conference is hereby requested to put forth its best efforts to introduce legislation to accomplish these objectives.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the closure of private prisons shall be a legislative priority for the NAACP before Congress and all state Legislatures.

13. Innocent Inmate Compensation

WHEREAS, the Innocence Project has reported that over the past 20 years, 362 people previously convicted of serious crimes in the United States were later exonerated by DNA testing, and twenty of those persons had been sentenced to death; and

WHEREAS, approximately 70% of the persons exonerated of serious crimes are members of racial and ethnic minority groups; and

WHEREAS, in light of the extremely high rate of incarceration in the United States, tens of thousands of innocent individuals have likely been convicted of crimes and served time in our nation's federal and state prisons; and

WHEREAS, when released from prison, these innocent victims are often homeless and destitute, and in 21 states, the system that caused this injustice does not guarantee any form of compensation to those persons; and

WHEREAS, Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was ratified by the United States, requires compensation to persons wrongfully convicted of crimes under certain circumstances, such as when a conviction is reversed because later acquired evidence demonstrates conclusively that the person did not commit the crime for which he or she was convicted.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate for the implementation throughout the United States of Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights through a national Innocent Inmate Compensation Act that would compensate innocent inmates who are wrongfully convicted because of failures in the criminal justice system, and through state legislation requiring such compensation in those states that do not currently require same.

14. *Education in Juvenile Justice Facility*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) believes that access to education and, particularly, literacy, should be regarded as a fundamental right of all people, giving students the ability to grow and succeed as productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, the juvenile justice system sits at the intersection of education and justice for youth under the age of 18 who become involved in criminal activity; and

WHEREAS, the commonly stated goals of the juvenile justice system are skill development, habilitation, rehabilitation, treatment needs, successful reintegration of youth into the community, and public safety; and

WHEREAS, youth-adjudicated children face educational disruptions, delayed enrollment, and inappropriate placements, which cause these children to either fall behind or to drop out of school, as many onsite educational programs within the juvenile justice system fail to meet the needs of their students; and

WHEREAS, students of color, students with disabilities, and students within the LGBTQ community are disproportionately arrested, referred, detained, charged, found delinquent (or transferred to adult court) instead of being placed on probation or into diversion programs; and

WHEREAS, Black youth are approximately 14% of the total youth population, but Black youth constitute 47.3% of the youth who are transferred to adult court by juvenile court judges who believe the youth cannot benefit from the services of their court. Black youth are 53.1% of youth transferred for offenses on the person despite the fact that black and white youth make up an equal percentage of youth charged with such offenses, 40.1% and 40.5% respectively, in 2015. These disparities underscore the urgency of ensuring that juvenile justice facilities not perpetuate the racial injustices that gave rise to the gross over-commitment of Black youth to these facilities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall urge locally operated youth detention centers to establish accredited educational programs with certified teachers that align with the local public schools by providing basic literacy and functional skills needed for students who are likely to return to such public schools, or who seek to earn a diploma while incarcerated.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall further encourage the operators of detention centers to assess and report whether changes in curriculum have made significant differences regarding safety inside the prison, recidivism rates, the rate of youth returning to school, and graduation rates.

15. *Treating Violence as a Public Health Crisis*

WHEREAS, in America, violence manifests itself in many forms, including but not limited to systemic and structural violence, such as racism, police crimes, and economic disparities, as well as interpersonal violence, such as domestic and sexual abuse and community harm; and

WHEREAS, this trend of violence is duplicated in almost every major city in America, has reached epidemic proportions, and costs America substantial loss of life every year among all segments of population; and

WHEREAS, a national study entitled, "Violence in the United States: Status, challenges, and opportunities," published in the Journal of the American Medical Assn. on August 4, 2015, states, in part: "Interpersonal violence, which includes child abuse and neglect, youth violence, intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and elder abuse, affects millions of US residents each year. However, surveillance systems, programs, and policies to address violence often lack broad, cross-sector collaboration, and there is limited awareness of effective strategies to prevent violence;" and

WHEREAS, violence affects communities in a manner very similar to infectious diseases as the pathological effects of violence are deep and far-reaching, leaving scars on individual bodies and minds, and on society; and

WHEREAS, similar to a metastatic form of cancer, violence can take root and spread throughout communities; and

WHEREAS, similar to understanding the pathological characteristics of medical and mental disorders, there is a need to understand the entirety of the disease of violence-root and branch-to prevent and eradicate it; and

WHEREAS, prevention programs in communities that successfully address violence in those communities but have lost significant funding.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP declares that violence in America is a public health concern and should be treated as a disease.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP urges the Congress of the United States to conduct formal hearings to discover systemic and proximate causes of violence in America, to receive testimony regarding changes in American Society that may be undertaken to stem violence and alleviate the effects of violence on American people, as well as provide funding to implement programs that address violence as a public health concern.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will urge all units to collaborate with other civic and health care organizations to educate the public and institutions regarding violence as a disease.

16. *Require Law Enforcement Personnel to Undergo Substance Abuse Testing After Discharging of a Fire Arm*

WHEREAS, across America, African Americans are more likely to be shot and killed by law enforcement officers than any other race; and

WHEREAS, according to the Guardian, in 2015, 1,134 deaths across the country were at the hands of police officers; and

WHEREAS, African Americans between the ages of 15 and 34 make up approximately 2% of the total US population, but made up more than 15% of all deaths logged in 2015, and

WHEREAS, not all law enforcement agencies require their officers to undergo chemical, drug and/or alcohol blood testing after shooting incidents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall work to enact legislation that will make it a federal requirement to test law enforcement personnel when they discharge their firearm; and in the event of an officer shooting, whether or not the victim dies, that within two (2) hours of the officer discharging his/her firearm, testing shall be completed for any chemical and/or controlled substance, including alcohol in their system.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall develop guidelines to assist units in working with local law enforcement agencies and officials to implement similar policy on the local level.

17. *Ending Murders and Violence Against Black Transgender Women and Supporting Transgender Communities*

WHEREAS, “transgender” is defined by the Human Rights Campaign as “an umbrella term for people whose gender identity and/or expression is different from cultural expectations based on the sex they were assigned at birth; and

WHEREAS, at least 22 transgender people were killed in the United States in 2018 — 82 percent of them were women of color; 64 percent were under the age of 35; 55 percent lived in the South; and

WHEREAS, at least at least 28 transgender people were killed in 2017, which was the most on record, again disproportionately targeting transgender women of color and Black women in particular; and

WHEREAS, the murder of transgender people is significantly underreported because data collection is often incomplete or unreliable because some victims' deaths may go unreported, some victims may not be identified as transgender due to the refusal of law enforcement to do so, and some journalists and/or family members refuse to acknowledge the victim's gender identity; and

WHEREAS, transgender women of color face enormously high rates of homelessness, unemployment, negative health outcomes, rates of depression and suicidal ideation, discrimination in their families, unjust treatment when seeking help from law enforcement, and homicide due to their transgender identity; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration continues to push egregious policies that harm transgender communities and wither away equal protection under the law; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court will consider whether the Civil Rights Act of 1964 guarantees protections from workplace discrimination to gay and transgender people; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP will recognize the deaths of transgender women of color, who suffer violence and homicide at disproportionate rates.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will work with all of its Units to work to support equal protection for transgender individuals so that all members of our community can live free of violence, shame and discrimination.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. *Calling for National Utility Reform and Elimination of Inflated Fixed Rates, with Special Consideration of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Service Area*

WHEREAS, on May 18, 1933, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act (TVA) of 1933 into law (48 Stat. 58-59, 16 U.S.C. sec. 831), establishing a federal electric power utility to oversee the construction of dams to control flooding, improve navigation, create affordable electric power in the Tennessee Valley basin, improve the living standards of farmer and support projects that primarily benefit domestic and rural customers; with sales to and use by industry of output by TVA as a secondary concern; and

WHEREAS, TVA was enacted and is protected by the Congress of the United States of America under the "Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933" and under its provisions, the TVA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is mandated to meet a legal requirement to report to Congress on the office's results twice a year through its Semiannual Report to Congress and to file a financial statement in March of each year: and

WHEREAS, TVA provides electricity for business customers and local power companies serving 9 million people in parts of the seven southeastern states of Mississippi, Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina, that have the highest poverty rates in the nation; and

WHEREAS, according to a rates study review, released by Synapse Energy Economics, TVA shifted more than \$1.4 billion in charges from industry to homeowners and commercial customers from 2011 to 2016, costing the typical homeowner in Chattanooga nearly \$14 more a month than what they would have paid without the rate realignment while reducing the rates of large industries by 20 percent; and

WHEREAS, TVA has allegedly engaged in undisclosed discussions with large industrial consumers to deliberate lowering their rates, while raising rates for families and small

businesses; and has so far failed to provide a Cost of Service study to justify rate changes; and

WHEREAS, TVA has been raising rates while approving compensation increases, making its CEO the highest-paid federal employee in the country – earning over \$8.1 million during FY 2018, his retirement makes him eligible for \$12.8M payout, paying huge bonuses to its executives annually, and purchasing nearly \$30 million worth of luxury aircrafts; and

WHEREAS, higher mandatory fees already have a disproportionate impact on the utility bills of those who use less energy, a group that disproportionately consists of low-income, elderly, African American, Asian, and Hispanic households; and

WHEREAS, TVA customers in the City of Memphis are paying the highest percentage of their income on electricity, more than double the national average, a metric known as “energy burden; leaving low-income Memphians to bear the highest burdens, on average spending over one quarter of their annual household income on energy; and

WHEREAS, energy cost burden is not just a problem in the states within the TVA area of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky, but is a national problem with at least 25 of the 50 states in the country shouldering high utility rates, including the far southwestern state of Hawaii, the northern states of Rhode Island, Massachusetts,, Alaska, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Vermont, Maine, the western state of California; and

WHEREAS, the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) Report revealed a trend that most minority majority populated cities have disproportionate energy burdens; and that the top ten are Memphis, New Orleans, Birmingham, Atlanta, Philadelphia, Providence, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Detroit and St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, in the five states with the highest low-income energy burden – Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, Georgia, and Arkansas – low income households use 36% more electricity than the low-income national average; and

WHEREAS, TVA proposes a new fixed “grid access charge” for the power it sells wholesale to local power companies and local power companies on TVA system; and have already increased mandatory fixed charges for residential customers by over 50% since 2011, in response to past TVA wholesale rate changes; and

WHEREAS, TVA's "grid access charge," totaling 60 million dollars, restricts consumer choice and energy freedom and predates its Integrated Resource Plan, which is intended to fairly evaluate renewable energy options; and

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WHEREAS, in many places solar and wind power are the cheapest options, yet TVA already turned down a major deal to get wind for less than the cost of power for burning coal; and

WHEREAS, without a fair planning process, TVA may miss out on the true lowest cost energy source, leaving customers on a budget in the lurch; and

WHEREAS, TVA is a self-regulated government sanctioned monopoly, accountable to the federal legislative bodies of government but not accountable to state utility regulators as are investor-owned utilities in neighboring states across the nation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People calls upon Congress of the United States of America and the Trump Administration to consider regulations to curb actions of utilities across the nation, including the Tennessee Valley Authority; and to dismiss any rate structure changes that shift costs from industrial customers to residential customers and to terminate the inflated “grid access charge” and/or any other attempts to increase fixed charges in the sale of electricity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon Congress to pass the "Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2019," introduced by U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett, which would require meetings of the TVA Board to be held in public, properly noticed, and make available minutes and summaries of each meeting and further require TVA to be more transparent in its ratemaking methodologies and provide unhindered public access to its Cost of Service study in a timely manner under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), (5 U.S.C. § 552), so that customers can evaluate the fairness of its rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon the United States Congress and the Trump Administration to require all energy providers, including TVA, to end any and all practices of negotiating fees without complete transparency and public inclusion when determining consumer prices and creating policy, especially as it initiates its 2020 Integrated Resource Plan process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP requests that Congress mandate that TVA commit to more comprehensive energy efficiency programs and renewable energy standards over the next five years, providing for fair remuneration for households and businesses that install small-scale solar and allowing local power companies to contract for additional renewable energy at their discretion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP urges TVA to realign its method of operation to partnering with the states of its service areas, in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky and small areas of Georgia, North Carolina and Virginia, to develop aggressive energy policies

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commensurate with the recommendations of the NAACP's Just Energy Policies, to reach the recommended goal of at least 25% renewable energy by 2025; taking into account that Tennessee, Mississippi and Alabama are among the worst cited In the NAACP report.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advises TVA to redirect proportionately equivalent Extreme Energy Makeover Program funding to energy efficiency and home weatherization, with special focus on restorative funding for the long-neglected City of Memphis.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP petitions the U.S. Congress, by way of dissemination of this resolution, to immediately engage the U.S. Government Accountability Office in a comprehensive review of TVA's unregulated monopoly, its abysmal business approach to servicing its distressed customers, its continued authority to self-police, and its adherence to its original charge of improving the economic and social circumstances, all of which continue to endanger, rather than improve, the disadvantaged population living within the Tennessee River basin.

2. *Economic Reciprocity and Self Determination Through Base Reuse Closure*

WHEREAS, closures of military bases have impacted the local economies in the cities where those bases were located; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are disproportionately impacted economically through such closures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People shall use all of its influence to ensure that in the aftermath of base closures, African American communities are included in any plans for the future use of properties affected by such base closures.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will set up a business structure that will help NAACP units to work in collaboration with communities where military bases have been closed to support African-American citizens and other ethnic groups that are impacted economically by base closures in order for the aforementioned people to secure land to create business opportunities using the federal goals for MBE's, DBE's and EBE's to promote greater economic self-sufficiency.

3. Support of Infrastructure Funding to Rebuild, Expand, and Rehabilitate Public Works Infrastructure to Benefit Communities of Color

WHEREAS, communities of color are disproportionately located in disaffected, dilapidated areas too often lacking maintenance and appropriate resources; and

WHEREAS, building and repairing much-needed infrastructure projects and facilities such as public housing, community outdoor spaces, roads, ports, flood protection projects, drinking water and wastewater systems, and other infrastructure projects are costly to local communities, and the required project permits are difficult to obtain in a timely and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, communities of color have experienced disproportionate, adverse impacts from the lack of access to, and maintenance of, safe, clean water due to aging, crumbling infrastructure as evidenced by the recent water quality crisis in Flint, Michigan; and

WHEREAS, given the high costs to build and rehabilitate such infrastructure and the extensive permitting process required, these infrastructure projects often cannot be built using only local funding and need additional funding from state and federal resources; and

WHEREAS, federal infrastructure plans can also provide a path for streamlined permitting for these critical infrastructure projects in our communities through a well-structured and protective set of guidelines that could cut months if not years off the permitting process; and

WHEREAS, the combination of federal and state funding and a streamlined permitting process that improves necessary protections could substantially accelerate the implementation of infrastructure development and improvement projects needed by states and local communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will advocate to influence all federal infrastructure initiatives to ensure that communities of color are not missed or left behind in the distribution of infrastructure dollars.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will also advocate that the regulatory process for these projects can be streamlined without compromising the environmental protections, and local controls and securities which are in all American communities.

4. Cashless Retail Transactions Promotes Discrimination in our Communities

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) strives for equality of social and economic rights of all persons through pursuing enactment of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights; and

WHEREAS, many retail establishments have stopped accepting cash in exchange for goods and services, ostensibly in order increase efficiency and safety. Debit and credit card payments comprise up 48% of all transactions in 2017; and

WHEREAS, financial institutions tend to require minimum balances, charge monthly fees, or impose penalties for overdrafts. These features make banking off-limits to the socioeconomically disadvantaged, particularly communities of color. Further, some immigrants and elderly people simply may not trust banks and often refuse to use them.

WHEREAS, if society continues to move in the direction of a cashless system, some communities of color and immigrant communities will be driven to the edges of the economy; and

WHEREAS, those who oppose retailers going cashless point out that not accepting cash hurts poorer residents who may not be able to afford or qualify for a credit card or who want to avoid fees that come with changing cash into a prepaid debit card. Privacy advocates also point out that being forced to use a digital form of payment to buy things is a requirement to share records of their purchases with third-party companies.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP calls on Congress to pass legislation that would ban cashless retail stores throughout the country, essentially requiring these essential neighborhood businesses to accept cash.

5. *Rent to Own Schemes and Predatory Lending Practices*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) strives for equality of social and economic rights of all persons by pursuing enactment of federal, state, and local regulations that secure civil rights; and

WHEREAS, while property ownership is the primary means by which Americans are able to build generational wealth, opportunities for property ownership have been severely restricted since the broken promise of a “40 acres and a mule” to newly freed slaves. Since then, Black Americans have been generations behind their White counterparts in obtaining home ownership, which, more than any other factor, impacts the wealth gap between African Americans and Whites; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the typical Black household had just one dollar in net worth for every 12 dollars of a typical White household. This is primarily because families slowly accumulate wealth over their lifetimes and across generations; and

WHEREAS, in regard to total wealth, homeownership is heavily skewed towards White families. In 2016, 72% of White families owned their home, compared to just 44% of Black families; and

WHEREAS, events like the housing market crisis and the 2007 recession increased racial wealth inequality because mortgage brokers and lenders marketed subprime mortgages specifically to Black households. In 2007, nearly 54% of upper-income Black households had high-cost mortgages while only 28% of low-income White households had high-cost mortgages; and

WHEREAS, in the “Rent-to-Own” agreement, which is an old but still modern loan type, an item is leased in exchange for weekly or monthly payments, with the option to purchase during or at the end of the allotted time. Real and tangible property are often offered with this type of loan; and

WHEREAS, consumer rental stores may legally price goods at more than triple the fair market price—knowing that customers will be seduced by a low-sounding rental price — because many state consumer laws governing rent-to-own transactions haven’t been updated for decades; and

WHEREAS, contract for deeds is a rent-to-own model where the buyer pays for real estate, such as a home, by making monthly payments for a period of years. The buyer does not receive a deed to the property until all payments are made according to the contract. Investment firms exploit this model by acquiring land from government agencies, such as Fannie Mae, then they create contracts for deeds that solely benefit the seller; and

WHEREAS, a contract for deed transaction provides investors with an easy way to circumvent repair obligations that ordinarily extend to landlords, an investor can place a contract-for-deed buyer in a substandard home without any obligations to repair the home; and

WHEREAS, for example, seller-financed housing contracts have aggravated a persistent problem of lead poisoning among young children in this country. In Baltimore, Maryland a woman’s two young children were found to have dangerous levels of lead in their blood due to the lead-filled home they were purchasing through Vision Property Management, a company that was fined over \$11,000 for failing to register 43 homes in the city of Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, rental companies prey upon the financially illiterate in certain communities with predatory loans that come with life-threatening risks that are either unknown or undisclosed to the buyer. The investors who use contracts for deeds position themselves in markets that lack adequate oversight and consumer protection; and

WHEREAS, these borrowers who are disproportionately low-income and members of ethnic and racial minorities cannot employ the financial and legal services of the formal homeownership and mortgage financing processes, and therefore look elsewhere to purchase a home, which leads them to the rent-to-own option; and

WHEREAS, unfair clauses, terms, and provisions are included in these contracts in order to place the buyer in an inequitable position. Compulsory arbitration clauses prevent the buyer from suing the seller in court, and forfeiture clauses allow the seller to terminate the buyer's contract for being as little as a day late in payment; and

WHEREAS, these investors commit numerous housing violations, including violating the warrant of habitability—which requires landlords to ensure that a home is fit for human habitation; and

WHEREAS, contracts for deeds should be deemed to violate the Fair Housing Act because they involve marketing of a predatory loan product specifically to Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, contracts for deeds negatively impact the economic growth and stabilization of African Americans. Contracts for deeds increase eviction rates in neighborhoods, thereby increasing school turnover rates and overall community instability.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP condemns rent-to-own and contracts for deeds models that exploit low-income homebuyers and consumers.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall request the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Rural Housing Service to adopt a three-step method to safeguard individuals against all predatory rent-to-own loans: mandatory *identification* and disclosure of all properties and its conditions, *regulation* on government levels put in place to safeguard consumers, and consumer *education*.

EDUCATION

1. ***NAACP Calls for Review of all Dr. Seuss Books/Works in all Public Schools/Institutions and Public Libraries***

WHEREAS, Theodor Seuss Geisel, also known as Dr. Seuss, is one of the most popular children authors and his books have sold over 650 million including 450 million since his death in 1991 (28 years ago) and are available in seventeen languages and 95 countries; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seuss published hundreds of cartoons, comics, and advertisements for newspapers, magazines, companies, and the United States government that dehumanized and degraded African Americans, Indigenous people, people from other marginalized groups including Jewish and Muslim people, and other people of color; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Seuss illustrations are steeped in racist propaganda, caricatures and harmful stereotypes such as portraying Jewish people with “oversized noses and Jewish merchants on a football field with ‘Quarterback Mosenblum’ refusing to relinquish the ball until a bargain price had been established,” or frequently portraying Africans and African Americans as monkeys and cannibals “often holding spears, surrounded by flies, and wearing grass skirts” and in Judge magazine and College Humor, he published over a dozen cartoons depicting Black people as monkeys and consistently captioned them as “niggers;” and

WHEREAS, in a 1929 cartoon Dr. Seuss made for Judges’ magazine, he depicts a group of thick-lipped Black men up for sale to White men. The sign above the caption reads “Take Home a High Grade Nigger for Your Wood Pile.” Some of the other captions he used of Black people were advertising that featured racist and xenophobic depictions of Arabs, Muslims, and Black people as caricatures or monkeys in subservient positions to White men. In 1928, the first ever artwork that he signed as “Dr. Seuss,” he drew a racist cartoon of a Japanese woman and children. The caption spells the word children as “childlen,” which reflected the stereotype that Japanese people could not say their “r’s” His depiction of Japanese people has been rationalized as “war hysteria;” however, his cartoon precedes his anti-Japanese propaganda during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in Dr. Seuss publication for Dartmouth Outing Club’s program, he featured stereotypical depictions of Indigenous people with large feather headdresses, long pipes, and nearly naked in the snow. Dr. Seuss’ 1933 Life magazine spread featured Orientalist depictions of men in turbans and men riding camels. He published a series of advertisements for Essomarine Oils & Greases featuring Black people with ape face or as monkeys and cannibals in grass skirts. His dehumanization of Black people continued in a decade in which there were an average of 10 lynchings of Black people per year. His cartoons for PM exhibited explicit anti-Japanese racism and depicted Japanese and Japanese Americans as a violent threat to the United States and were drawn with pig snouts, as snakes, monkeys, or cats, and they were referred to as “Jap;” and

WHEREAS, *The Cat in the Hat* is the second best-selling Dr. Seuss book of all time, after *Green Eggs and Ham*, and the ninth best-selling children’s book of all time. Extensive research on the racialized origins of *The Cat in the Hat* indicate it was “inspired by blackface performance” which demeans, offends, and disrespects the racial group who is being black faced, “racist images in popular culture, and actual African Americans;” and

WHEREAS, according to Baron and Banaji, “children report negative explicit attitudes toward out-group members at age three” and when exposed to racism and prejudice at this age, they tend

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to embrace and accept it, even though they might not understand these feelings and “by age six, White North American children have already developed a pro-White/Anti-black bias;” and

WHEREAS, research shows that children’s books provides “impressions and messages that can last a lifetime, and shapes how children see and understand themselves, their homes, communities, world and that text accompanied with imagery such as books with pictures, shapes children racial attitudes.” Research also shows that when children’s books are “centered in whiteness that erases people of color” and other oppressed and marginalized groups, or “presents people of color in stereotypical, dehumanizing, or subordinate ways, they both ingrain and reinforce internalized racism” and White superiority/privilege; and

WHEREAS, it is well documented that textbooks and classroom teachings are written and taught from a European/White/Caucasian perspective and that “White privilege permeates education.” These systems put in place for centuries continue, including the way teachers are trained, how they interact with students, the mindset of compliance and obedience, and are all centered in whiteness. As students of color try to navigate this system, their voices aren’t heard because they are often seen as contrary to education rather than being seen as a strength of their diversity; and

WHEREAS, ethnic and racial disparities must be recognized by the dominant group, presently represented by White/Anglo as those in positions of power and confronted by people of color in order for real alliances for social justice to exist; and

Whereas, it is reported that “one out of every four children born in the United States receives as its first book a Dr. Seuss book;” and

WHEREAS, dehumanizing, and degrading any group cannot be normalized, defended as “a product of his time,” justified and/or minimized and research shows the majority of Dr. Seuss books spanning seven decades reinforces White superiority/privilege, stereotypes, dehumanizes and degrades people of color; and

WHEREAS, Ishizuda and Stephens conducted extensive research on Dr. Seuss’ work in “The Cat is Out of the Bag: Orientalism, Anti-Blackness, and White” and in 2017 their findings were presented to the National Education Association’s (NEA) Read Across America (RAA) Advisory Committee advocating that they reconsider their 20 year focus on Dr. Seuss and use the NEA’s platform to promote anti-racism and feature diverse books by authors of color. And in 2018, the NEA transitioned away from Dr. Seuss books, changed their theme, removed all Dr. Seuss books from their annual RAA calendar, and featured all diverse books at their RAA events.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that National Association for the Advancement of Colored People call on the Superintendent of Education of each State/District/County or Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to draft and implement guidelines on the appropriateness of Dr. Seuss books and other published works and evaluate whether his publications are dehumanizing,

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degrading, and harmful to African American, Native Americans, Mexican Americans, Asians, Indigenous people, Jewish, Arabs and Muslim people and all people of color.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People shall inform and provide guidelines to all Branches, Units, College Chapters, and Education Chairs on working with the Superintendent of Education of each State/District/County or Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to draft and implement guidelines on the appropriateness of Dr. Seuss books and his other published works.

2. *Support for African/American History in K-12 Curriculum – Reaffirming “Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, Justice Thurgood Marshall, Dr. Carter G. Woodson-NAACP Education” Reaffirmed 2010*

WHEREAS, throughout its history the NAACP has been a champion of comprehensive and quality education; and

WHEREAS, building an educated society requires eradicating a whitewashed and non-inclusive version of American history; and

WHEREAS, current standards for teaching history come from a Eurocentric perspective; and

WHEREAS, not learning about the comprehensive history of people of color in America contributes to lower history test scores and achievement gaps for African American, Latino, and Native American students; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have suffered injury from the destruction of the link between their history and themselves; and

WHEREAS, the current study of African American history in K-12 across the United States lacks concepts and the analysis critical to a basic understanding of the history of Africans and people of African descent in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, through resolutions adopted in 1977, 1984, 1990, 1991, 1995, 1997, 2003, 2007, and 2012 the NAACP has demonstrated its unwavering support for the inclusion of African-American history and diverse curriculums; and

WHEREAS, such diversity in teaching history must be comprised of a history of African people on the continent of Africa, colonization of Africa, the trans-Atlantic slave trade (Middle Passage), the institution of slavery in America, abolition, Reconstruction, post-Reconstruction, Jim Crow laws, the Modern Civil Rights Movement, the legal, political and social challenges to discrimination, as well as the overall contributions of African Americans to society; and

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WHEREAS, the history of African Americans should be a part of the curriculum at all grade levels in our schools, and this curriculum should be reviewed and approved by recognized scholars of African-American history.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms the 2012 resolution stating that, “where states do not have laws to ensure the teaching of valid, historically accurate curriculum that includes African American history among other historical perspectives and accounts, the NAACP will advocate for the creation of such laws with strong comprehensive implementation guaranteeing states and districts’ compliance.”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP shall pursue adoption of a diverse curriculum in local school districts by engaging school committees, city councils and Mayors.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall support state and federal legislation requiring and/or incentivizing all public schools in the United States to develop curriculums that are more inclusive of African and African-American history.

3. Summer Learning Program – Brighter Futures

WHEREAS, summer learning loss is responsible for two-thirds of the student achievement gap by the end of fifth grade; and

WHEREAS, high quality summer learning programs are proven to maintain and advance students' academic and social growth, keep children safe and healthy during the summer, and send young people back to school ready to learn. Additionally, summer youth employment programs engage older youth in meaningful activities that allow them to explore careers of interest, take on new responsibilities, contribute to their community, and earn money for the future; and

WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) offer states flexible funding opportunities like the Title IV, Part A "Student Success and Academic Enrichment" (SSAE) grant program to foster creative summer programing that drives student success; and

WHEREAS, a wide array of public agencies, community-based organizations, schools, libraries, museums, recreation centers, camps, and businesses in our community contribute to the well-being of youth through summer programming; and

WHEREAS, summer learning is a critical component of our collective effort to ensure all students graduate from high school prepared for college, careers, and life.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP Units will advocate to protect funding streams for summer programs as well as work within their local communities to expand quality summer

learning opportunities, summer meals and summer job opportunities for young people, particularly those in high-poverty communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the adoption of the pending legislation of the Child Care for Working Families Act which would provide working families with much-needed summer child-care support.

4. *2015 Guidance on School Discipline Reform by the Department of Education and the Department of Justice*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) strives for equality of social and economic rights of all persons through pursuing enactment of federal, state, and local laws securing civil rights; and

WHEREAS, education, and specifically the opportunity to attain literacy, is a fundamental right of all people, giving students the ability to grow and succeed as productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, the most recent data shows significant racial disparities in educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS, school-discipline policies, especially out-of-school suspensions and expulsions, have a profound, negative impact on a student's future. Specifically, students who are suspended or expelled from school are more than twice as likely to be arrested in the following two months. Furthermore, students incarcerated in the juvenile justice system are significantly less likely to graduate from high school; and

WHEREAS, at every step of a Black student's education, he or she is significantly more likely to be suspended or expelled than a White student. Even in Pre-School, Black children only make up 18% of students but make up nearly half of all students with multiple suspensions; and

WHEREAS, Black K-12 students are almost four times more likely to be suspended than White students and are almost twice as likely to be expelled as White students; and

WHEREAS, social science evidence shows that racial disparities in school-discipline are caused by harmful racial biases and stereotypes in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, social science evidence also shows that racial disparities in school discipline are driven by broader school-discipline policies that may appear facially neutral, but have a disproportionate effect on Black students; and

WHEREAS, under the Obama Administration, the Department of Justice and the Department of Education released a Dear Colleague Letter directing school districts to address facially neutral but factually discriminatory practices, otherwise known as disparate impact discrimination;

WHEREAS, this Dear Colleague Letter resulted in at least 50 school districts reforming their school discipline policies and 25 states passing laws to address school-discipline disparities; and

WHEREAS, these policies and laws were linked to a decrease in overall suspensions and racial disparities in school discipline; and

WHEREAS, despite the success of these policies, they have been dishonestly linked to increased school violence by opponents of strong public schools; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Trump Administration rescinded the Obama Administration's guidance – an action that could halt or reverse progress on school-discipline disparities.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on the Department of Education and the Department of Justice to reinstate the Obama-era guidance on school discipline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that the U.S. House Oversight Committee and the U.S. House Education Committee conduct hearings on enforcement of federal laws protecting students from discrimination in school discipline since 2017.

BE IN FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall work with school districts to continue the use of the Joint Guidance on school discipline propagated by the Obama administration.

5. *Opposing Arming School Staff as Part of a School's Student Safety and Protection Plan*

WHEREAS, school districts are governed by the federal Gun-free School Zones Act of 1990, which makes it unlawful for any unauthorized individual to possess a firearm in a school zone; and

WHEREAS, there are currently exceptions to the federal Gun-free School Zones Act. Some states allow for the local control of school boards in determining if they want to include an option for trained and armed staff to protect students, fellow staff members, and themselves, in an emergency situation; and

WHEREAS, better mental health care to address the mental health needs of students and the community is a viable alternative to more guns. More guns have served to increase gun violence; and

WHEREAS, armed staff members expose students and staff to "friendly fire" from armed staff, as well as first responders; and

WHEREAS, arming staff members has legal implications, exposing districts to wrongful death litigation; and

WHEREAS, when police with years of training and experience haven't always gotten it right, we cannot expect school staff with far less training and experience to be depended on to shoot the right person, at the right time; and

WHEREAS, it stands to reason that children of color who are disproportionately disciplined, suspended, and expelled in American schools will be disproportionately, negatively impacted by such policies and legislation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that all National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP") shall oppose any policy and or legislation which provides states and local school boards the option of allowing administrators, faculty, and other school staff to be an "armed" part of a school's Student Safety and Protection Plan.

6. *Pre-Kindergarten Education*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) seeks equality in education and nutrition, and equity in healthcare; and

WHEREAS, education, nutrition, and equity in healthcare should be regarded as a fundamental right of all people, giving young children the ability to develop and grow into productive members of society; and

WHEREAS, pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) programs can provide quality education and screen for nutritional and developmental delays that require medical intervention. Pre-K programs support growing maternal employment rates by providing high quality, beneficial childcare; and

WHEREAS, research has demonstrated the importance and benefit of positive early childhood experience and brain development; and

WHEREAS, there have been three major reports on state and federal funding conducted by the General Accountability Office (GAO), with the reports having been released in 1994, 2012, and 2017. These reports show that Pre-K produces substantial long-term gains, particularly when programs are properly designed; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP reaffirms its support for its 1977 and 2013 resolutions regarding Early Childhood Education in light of growing evidence of lasting cognitive and social benefits; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP reaffirms its position in light of recent peer reviewed meta-analysis, summarizing the results of 123 studies, that found that despite some decline in effects after children entered school, on average, positive social and cognitive effects of Pre-K do not disappear with advanced age and remained substantial; and

WHEREAS, cognitive gains from Pre-K programs were larger when programs focused on intentional and individualized teaching and small group learning. Long-term effects included gains in achievement and in social-emotional development, less grade repetition and special education, and increasing high school graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, many studies find that large-scale public programs, such as Head Start, have produced meaningful, long-term gains for children; and

WHEREAS, the United States is not keeping pace with other developed countries regarding pre-kindergarten education, ranking 26th in the world for the percentage of four-year-olds enrolled in early education; and

WHEREAS, Head Start provides services to children and families with household incomes up to 130% of the federal poverty level (about \$33,000 for a family of four). Head Start is the program for children from ages three to five years old.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its support for its 2013 Resolution to expand high-quality early learning opportunities in the years before preschool, and calls for the renewal of Presidential support for significant investment in a new Early Head Start child care partnership. Continuation of competitive grants will support communities that expand the availability of Early Head Start and child care that can meet the highest standards of quality for three and four-year-olds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its support for its 2013 Resolution to require states to meet quality benchmarks that are linked to better outcomes for children in order to access federal funding. This includes implementing state level standards for early learning and qualifying teachers for all preschool classrooms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all units of the NAACP support and promote the 2013 Resolutions and support the Department of Health and Human Services' 2016 Revised Rules. The NAACP emphasizes that Head Start programs will meet common and consistent standards for quality across all programs, which includes having well-trained teachers who have bachelor degrees (paid comparably to K-12 staff), small class sizes, low adult to child ratios, a rigorous curriculum, comprehensive health and related services, effective evaluation and review of programs, and programs that are full-time and service children for a minimum of 1,020 hours per year by 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP supports increasing the percentage of teachers with a relevant bachelor's degree (such as early childhood education, or child development) to one-hundred percent of Head Start teachers by 2021.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP calls upon the Federal Government and Congress to increase funding to the Head Start program.

7. *Post-Secondary Education*

WHEREAS, the National Association for Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has long been a champion of state and federal laws that provide post-secondary students with every opportunity to succeed in society; and

WHEREAS, schooling after high school is a vital tool to gaining access to the job market; and

WHEREAS, post-secondary education has a race gap that needs to be addressed; and

WHEREAS, post-secondary education serves the purpose of gaining employment that leads to economic prosperity; the goal of the government in the United States should be to help provide all communities with that opportunity, not exclude minorities through the use of discriminatory admissions practices; and

WHEREAS, the American educational system is not race-neutral. Discriminatory admissions practices continue to target African Americans; and

WHEREAS, such practices are illustrated in the recent college admissions scandal, underscoring the racial and economic disparities that affect admission into post-secondary institutions. Wealthy (and usually White) students have access to a far-reaching network of high-priced college preparation courses and counselors, which provides them with an advantage over their Black counterparts for admissions into the most prestigious universities; and

WHEREAS, even when universities recruit students of a variety of racial backgrounds, those opportunities are associated with a backlash, as students of color often have their qualifications questioned when they arrive on these elite campuses; and

WHEREAS, the disparate impact of discriminatory admission practices is widespread throughout communities of color and serve to deny people of color access to post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, discriminatory admissions practices destroy the economic well-being of its victims by perpetuating discrimination in the labor market.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP opposes the discriminatory admissions practices associated with post-secondary education in the United States and will work through the local, state, and federal legislative process to make sure that such practices will be prohibited. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the NAACP will work to identify and assist victims of discriminatory post-secondary education admission practices by exposing those who engage in these practices that do great harm to our communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

1. *Environmental Climate Justice*

WHEREAS, greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise as a result of ever greater amounts of fossil fuels being extracted and burned; and

WHEREAS, if present trends continue, the world is facing a catastrophic increase in average global temperature between 3.7 and 6 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, further global warming and climate change will deepen the climate crisis that will magnify the already catastrophic health impacts of fossil fuel pollution, hunger, and malnutrition due to desertification, devastation, and displacement from severe weather events and sea level rise - all leading to immeasurable human suffering and economic devastation; and

WHEREAS, NAACP members have been in the forefront of public advocacy in the form of rallies, marches, and press conferences, and speaking out before legislative bodies to emphasize public health concerns associated with environmental/climate injustice;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NAACP, in the spirit of advocacy and a commitment to environmental and climate justice, will continue to affirm prior resolutions to engage in active solidarity with frontline communities, allied organizations, and the greater social movement to resist fossil fuel interests and specific "extreme energy" projects, such as new construction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP will join with unions and allied organizations to promote democratic, public ownership and control of electrical power generation and distribution as essential to energy transition, sustainable development, and an end to energy poverty worldwide.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that NAACP will continue to work in our communities, nationally and internationally, to build a powerful movement for environmental and climate justice with the life-and-death urgency that this task requires.

2. *In Opposition to Hydraulic Fracturing*

WHEREAS, “fracking” is a shorthand term for hydraulic fracturing- the most common process to extract natural gas from the earth, and involves injecting high pressure water and chemicals (fracking fluid) into shale and other tight-rock formations, a mile or more below the surface; and

WHEREAS, fracking is controversial because of its destructive environmental impacts, which include the contamination of groundwater, the production of toxic waste, the consumption of large amounts of water (up to a million gallons of water used at each well), and negative health effects experienced by workers, nearby communities and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, a September 2015 study from researchers at Duke University found that fracking operators used approximately 250 billion gallons of water from 2005 to 2014 to extract oil and natural gas from hydraulically fracked wells, accounting for less than one percent of total industrial water use in the United States; and

WHEREAS, injection well operations for high volumes of waste water disposal, from hydraulically fractured oil and gas wells, in the form of fluid injections and underground disposal wells, are common practices in fracking and other unconventional oil and gas extraction methods; and

WHEREAS, stress on subsurface and surface water and quantity can be acute in areas of low rainfall or drought, and water quality can be affected by contamination due to underground methane migration and leaks and spills of chemicals and drilling wastewater; and

WHEREAS, compressor stations are needed every 40 to 100 miles along pipelines to re-pressurize natural gas and keep it moving and like other industrial facilities, compressor stations are allowed to emit limited amounts of air pollutants; and

WHEREAS, fracking is believed to have induced seismicity, causing earthquakes clusters or seismic swarms, usually referred to as frack quakes - even in areas not known for seismic activity; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the U.S. Geological Survey found that wastewater disposal, rather than fracking, was the main cause of an increase in earthquakes throughout the central United States from 2009 to 2013 and that wastewater disposal wells raise pressure levels more than fracked wells, due to the larger amounts of fluid used in wastewater disposal wells than in fracked wells; thus, wastewater disposal wells are more likely to produce induced seismic events than fracked wells; and

WHEREAS, until recently, earthquakes had been unusual in the central United States; however, Oklahoma surpassed California in 2014, by experiencing three times more seismic activity, prompting observational seismologic researchers, seismologists from the University of Oklahoma and Columbia University and many renowned scientists and geologists to conclude that disposal wells and quakes are likely connected; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of fracking on air quality are difficult to calculate, and as with any type of energy production, steps during the process (extraction and transportation) can produce air pollutants at varying levels depending on the level of operations in a particular area; and

WHEREAS, fracking can release toxic chemicals such as benzene, toluene, xylene, particulate matter, ozone, formaldehyde and nitrogen oxides into the environment that can affect human health; in particular, airborne chemicals released during drilling, construction, operation or transport activities have been linked to cancer, nervous system disorders, birth defects, and in some instances, death; and

WHEREAS, air pollution sources during fracking can include road and pipeline construction, well drilling and completion, and natural gas processing, transportation, and storage; however, the main pollutants released during the fracking process include volatile organic compounds (VOCs), nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and particulate matter; and

WHEREAS, pollutants such as VOCs react with nitrogen oxides to produce ground-level ozone, also known as smog, during fracking, and as such, are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and state agencies under the Clean Air Act; and

WHEREAS, water, air, odors, toxic gases, noise, and light, localized air pollution and odors from gases, dust and exhaust from trucks and equipment, noise and brilliant light may persist around the clock from drilling and attendant operations; and

WHEREAS, accidents and spills of toxic materials and hazardous waste may occur on drilling sites or during transport and could cause damage to roads from trucking; increased risk of traffic accidents due to heavy truck traffic; and increased social, public safety, emergency service, infrastructure, and administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, because fracking produces what is referred to as “natural gas,” it is often erroneously perceived as a clean, safe alternative to other fossil fuels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reaffirms its 2016 Resolution Against Natural Gas as a Climate Solution, or a “Bridge” Fuel to a Clean Energy Future.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls upon the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use the authority vested in it under the provisions of the Clean Air Act (CAA) to enforce regulations of onshore natural gas fracking for volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and to immediately implement the proposed updates to the 2012 New Source Performance Standards to add methane to the pollutants covered in the Overview of Final Amendments to Air Regulations for the Oil and Natural Gas Industry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP urges the EPA to adhere to its obligations under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to regulate on-site direct discharges of wastewater pollutants into navigable waters of the United States, including the discharge of all gas wastewater from fracking sites, and that EPA will revise the interpretation of its authority to include regulatory oversight of coalbed methane fracking as well.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP requests the EPA to expand the scope of its authority to include regulating the sub-surface reinjection of fracking wastewater, which poses the majority of risk due to the underground nature of fracking.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP applauds U.S. District Judge Philip Gutierrez's April 24, 2019 decision to decline reconsideration of his ruling that bars the Trump administration, in particular, the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), from issuing offshore drilling permits for hydraulic fracturing in U.S. territorial waters off the coast of California without first conducting environmental reviews; rejecting DCOR's (formerly known as Dos Cuadras Offshore) request for review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP commends Judge Gutierrez's original 2018 judgement which concluded that the Trump administration violated the Endangered Species Act and the Coastal Zone Management Act by allowing fracking in federal waters in the Pacific Ocean, by failing to consult adequately with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Coastal Commission before issuing permits to drilling companies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall petition federal and state governments to enact anti-fracking legislation pending a complete environmental emissions analysis, a health impacts assessment at all points- from the ground to shipping to dumping, and a comprehensive, observational seismologic research in evaluating possible causes of induced seismicity.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP lauds the actions of states such as Vermont, New York, Maryland and Oregon, who have already enacted moratoriums on fracking and supports proposed actions of other states to impose moratoriums to prevent and prohibit the human-induced dangers posed by hydraulic fracturing.

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HEALTH

1. *Discriminatory Medical Practices Lead to High Maternal Death Rates Among African American Women*

WHEREAS, maternal mortality rates in the US are 2.5 times higher today than they were in 1987; and

WHEREAS, African-American women are 4 times more likely to die in childbirth than white women; and

WHEREAS, the racial discrepancies in maternal death rates persist even when controlling for socioeconomic status and education; and

WHEREAS, African-American patients are half as likely to receive pain medication as white patients; and

WHEREAS, women's pain is not taken as seriously as men's by healthcare providers; consequently, women are less likely to be adequately treated for pain; and

WHEREAS, African-American women had more Caesarian sections than any other group; and

WHEREAS, poor pain control in the immediate post-Caesarian period leads to delayed functional recovery, poor maternal-fetal bonding, increased postpartum depression, and development of chronic incisional and pelvic pain; and

WHEREAS, African-American women are at the intersection of being both black and female; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stands opposed to the discriminatory medical practices associated with high maternal death rates among African-American women.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work to Identify and assist African-American women to receive best practices in their prenatal and perinatal medical coverage, and to take action necessary to improve medical outcomes for pregnant African-American women and their babies including access to family planning services.

2. *Parents Should be Strongly Urged to Vaccinate Their Children Against Measles*

WHEREAS, measles was thought to be officially eradicated in 2000; and

WHEREAS, a recent outbreak of measles has now infected nearly 700 people in 22 states, as of April 24, 2019, with the majority of cases in children under the age of 6; and

WHEREAS, measles can spread rapidly when it reaches a community in the U.S. where groups of people are unvaccinated; and

WHEREAS, studies suggest that 15-25% of people who get measles will need to be hospitalized and a small number could die; and

WHEREAS, many people with measles have complications such as diarrhea, ear infections or pneumonia. They can also get a brain infection that can lead to permanent brain damage; and

WHEREAS measles during pregnancy increases the risk of early labor, miscarriage and low birth weight infants. Measles can be more severe in people with weak immune systems; and

WHEREAS, measles is mostly preventable through MMR vaccination.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People stands strongly in favor of measles vaccinations.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will urge all of its Units to work to assist parents to vaccinate their children against measles in accordance with best medical practices.

3. *Prevention and Earlier Detection of HIV Virus*

WHEREAS, the NAACP reaffirms its 1992 policy addressing HIV with updates for new techniques and medicine; and

WHEREAS, HIV testing procedure using the Standard HIV Test (antibody test) can take up to a year to show results; and

WHEREAS, the HIV Standard Test (antibody test) serves a function; the objective of any HIV Test should be to have early detection of the HIV virus; and

WHEREAS, testing for the HIV virus using the Standard HIV Test (antibody test) and Confirmation Test (ribonucleic acid test RNA) at same time causes earlier detection of HIV virus; and

WHEREAS, such testing procedure is characterized by receiving treatment sooner; and

WHEREAS, such testing practice stops the spread of HIV virus; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross and United States Armed Forces practice what the Centers for Disease Control had suggested in 2007, that is, to use both Standard HIV Test (antibody test) and Ribonucleic Acid Test (RNA genetic confirmation test) at the same time for early detection of HIV virus (taking 10 to 15 days) for results; and

WHEREAS, educating the public on the importance of using both the Standard HIV Test and Confirmation Test at the same time causes one to know their HIV status sooner.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People advocates for early detection of the HIV virus.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will urge all of its units to work together to educate the youth and the adults on prevention, early diagnosis and state of the art management for HIV.

4. *Stemming the Tide of Chronic Kidney Disease in the African American Community*

WHEREAS, Chronic Kidney Disease refers to a slow progressing condition that can lead to end-stage renal disease (ESRD), also known as kidney failure, that requires lifetime healthcare treatment; and

WHEREAS, diabetes and/or hypertension are the most common causes of chronic kidney disease and are diseases that are more common in the African American community; diabetes specifically is 60% more common among African Americans than Caucasians; and

WHEREAS, more than 726,000 Americans currently have end-stage renal disease, with the number of new diagnoses increasing 5% each year, African Americans constitute more than 35% of all patients in the U.S. receiving dialysis for kidney failure, but only represent 13.2% of the overall U.S. population; and

WHEREAS, the prevalence of both chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease are disproportionately high in the community, where African Americans are three times more likely to develop end-stage renal disease than Caucasians; and

WHEREAS, kidney disease in African Americans often goes untreated until it reaches the later stages because of a lack of awareness among patients and limited preventive care that includes nutritional intervention, to slow progression of the disease; and

WHEREAS, "crashing" into dialysis, when patients are in kidney failure and need immediate treatment in a hospital to sustain life, restricts treatment choices; and

WHEREAS, other barriers, including biases among treating clinicians, a lack of access to home dialysis care experts and a low level of treatment choice education also restrict access to the full suite of care options; and

WHEREAS, patients from communities of color and from lower-income neighborhoods make up large numbers of ESRD patients who receive dialysis treatment in clinics or centers; and

WHEREAS, there are three treatment options for end-stage renal disease - in-center hemodialysis, home dialysis (peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis) and kidney transplant from a living or deceased kidney donor; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are almost 35% less likely than average to receive peritoneal dialysis and 16% less likely than average to receive home hemodialysis; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are less likely to be placed on the deceased kidney donor waiting list, which is the preferred treatment for end-stage renal disease; and

WHEREAS, Medicare provides coverage for dialysis treatment for all Americans, regardless of age, thus providing access to care not always seen in other disease states; and

WHEREAS, monthly blood transfusion and stroke prevention treatment are available or affordable to those with the greatest need for such treatments; and

WHEREAS, the average annual cost in treating end-stage renal disease patients is lower for peritoneal dialysis compared to in-center hemodialysis.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that the medical and health care industry provide equity in kidney disease treatment including increased education for African Americans focused on driving awareness of kidney disease risk factors, treatment and prevention strategies, and treatment options.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls for the implementation of new kidney disease and diabetes education programs and availability of well-trained specialists nationwide, to include nephrologists, clinical nutritionists, nephrology nurses, primary care providers, certified diabetes educators, certified dietitians, community health workers, and Medicare and health care coverage experts, as well as increased access to screening and preventive care services for the African-American community.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that African Americans and other people of color have access to health care providers with knowledge and experience of the specific needs of kidney disease patients, who will provide unbiased information on all treatment options and ensure equitable access to effective, high-quality treatment based on patients' needs and preferences, including home dialysis, in-center dialysis, and transplantation.

5. *Mental Health Urgent Care Clinics*

WHEREAS, the lack of readily available mental health services in the United States has created a national crisis; and

WHEREAS, low income and rural communities are the least likely to have access to mental health services, and

WHEREAS, communities of color are exposed to extreme psychological traumas due to environmental conditions, economic pressures, and targeted policing; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health Urgent Care Clinics have been proven to reduce suicides, physical attacks, crime, and depression.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP calls on the United States Congress to provide a funding system to support the development of community based Mental Health Urgent Care Clinics.

6. *Mental Health Crisis Mobile Unit Sign Post*

WHEREAS, 2 million people with mental illness are booked into jails each year. Nearly 15% of men and 30% of women booked into jails have a serious mental health condition; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of individuals with mental health issues are not violent criminals; and

WHEREAS, once in jail, many individuals with mental health issues don't receive the treatment they need and end up getting worse, not better. They stay longer than their counterparts without mental illness. They are at risk of victimization and often their mental health conditions get worse; and

WHEREAS, people with serious and untreated mental health and substance use conditions often encounter barriers that prevent receiving the right services. Among the wide-spread problems are:

- the lack of alternatives to calling 911;
- the lack of training for 911 personnel;
- the lack of alternatives to dispatching law enforcement personnel in response to mental health and substance use crises;
- the lack of training for law enforcement personnel; and
- the lack of crisis and respite services with the expertise to manage mental health and substance use conditions in a manner that facilitates recovery and reduces hospitalization, involvement in the criminal justice system and homelessness; and

WHEREAS, As a result, persons experiencing mental health or substance use crisis may:

- end up in confrontations with law enforcement personnel which have tragic outcomes;
- be transported to emergency rooms and be admitted or committed to inpatient psychiatric facilities when these outcomes are unnecessary and may be harmful to the person; and
- be transported to a jail and subjected to ongoing involvement in the criminal justice system when these outcomes are unnecessary, are harmful to the person and do not lead to increased public safety.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP will seek federal and state legislation to mandate all employers to post conspicuously in at least two locations in all facilities, contact information for the state, county and local Mental Health Crisis Intervention Mobil Units (CIT) – emergency mobile intervention teams so that CIT emergency teams are first contacted by employers and employees when persons experience some type of mental health crisis rather than calling 911 for police intervention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislation shall require all employers to provide to each employee a copy of the mobile hotline numbers.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the state departments of health and labor shall be charged with enforcing the mandatory sign posting at all employment locations and fines for violations shall be set as appropriate in each jurisdiction.

7. *Blood Stem Cell/Marrow Donor Availability for African American Patients*

WHEREAS, blood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, and other life-threatening diseases such as sickle cell disease can be cured by a committed and matching blood stem cell/marrow donor; and

WHEREAS, the national blood stem cell/marrow registry, “Be The Match,” strives to provide equal outcomes and availability of life-saving donors to people of all races and ethnicities; and

WHEREAS, every 3 minutes someone in the United States is diagnosed with 1 of 70 diseases that can be treated by a potentially life-saving transplant; and

WHEREAS, 70% of all people in need of a transplant depend on the “Be The Match” Registry to find an unrelated donor; and

WHEREAS, African Americans only make up 4% of the “Be The Match” Registry; and

WHEREAS, almost 100,000 transplants have occurred in the United States since 1987, but only 5% of those were for African-American persons; and

WHEREAS, the likelihood of finding a matched and committed donor available for an African-American person is only 23% as compared to 77% for Caucasian people; and

WHEREAS, African Americans have such unique HLA types that 78% of the new African American Registry Members added in 2018 provided a new HLA typing, and

WHEREAS, SAMAR, a recruitment center of “Be The Match,” provides educational and registration opportunities for the African-American community; and

WHEREAS, prospective donors can register for “Be The Match” online through the link, <https://join.bethematch.org/naacp> which contains a consent form or by text to 61474 with the code NAACP. Registered participants will receive postage paid swabs for return to the bank.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all NAACP branches partner with “Be The Match” of The National Marrow Donor program and the local centers to educate and register committed life-saving blood stem cell/marrow donors, as it is the only registry focused on ethnically diverse donor groups to bring equal opportunity to donors.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP call for the implementation of a formal national program such as “Be The Match” that endeavors to educate and bring awareness to African-American and Latino communities about the need to provide equal opportunities for the treatment of blood cancers such as leukemia, lymphoma, and other life-threatening diseases such as sickle cell diseases through presentations, registration events, and drives, using health agencies, education forums, community cultural centers, religious institutions, local and national awareness campaigns, and policy advocacy.

8. Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB)

WHEREAS, to protect our lives and our well-being, every family in America requires access to affordable prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, 90% of brand name drugs increased in price between 2005 and 2016, and the major driver of prescription drug costs is price increases on existing drugs, rather than innovation resulting in new drugs entering the market; and

WHEREAS, African Americans are disproportionately hurt by the high cost of prescription drugs, due to existing inequities in income and health care; and

WHEREAS, overall drug prices increased almost 9% in 2016 while general inflation increased just over 2% in the same period; and

WHEREAS, one in four individuals report not being able to afford their prescription drugs, resulting in approximately 45 million Americans in 2016 that did not fill a prescription due to prohibitive costs, and that nonadherence results in an estimated \$100-\$300 billion of avoidable health care costs annually; and

WHEREAS, prescription drugs represent increasing proportions of overall health care spending, accounting for 25% of each dollar spent by commercial health plans; and

WHEREAS, state legislatures have the ability and the duty to enact legislation to create a Prescription Drug Affordability Board to protect residents from the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, Maryland has taken a major step forward in bringing down the costs of prescription drug costs by creating the nation's first **Prescription Drug Affordability Board**. The measure will help government reduce expenditures on drugs for their employees, freeing up public funds for other needs, such as education. This Board will act as a watchdog for the public. It will carefully review drug costs and establish fair and affordable costs for state and local government.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports the creation of a Prescription Drug Affordability Board in each state to determine how best to make prescription drugs more affordable for their residents, including by examining the entire drug supply chain, including the role of drug manufacturers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), and establishing maximum affordability payment rates for expensive drugs that create significant affordability problems for residents, building upon the tradition of health care cost scrutiny.

9. *Plant Based Meals in Prison, K-12 and Hospitals*

WHEREAS, in the most recent U.S. data regarding causes of death of African-Americans, in 2016, approximately 330,844 African-Americans died. The top 5 causes of death are listed as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Heart Disease - | 24.3% or 80,395 people |
| 2. Cancer - | 23.3% or 77,086 people |
| 3. Unintentional Injuries - | 5.5% or 18,196 people |
| 4. Stroke - | 4.8% or 15,880 people |
| 5. Homicide - | 2.2% or 7,881 people |
- (2016 National Center for Health Statistics)

WHEREAS, in the first large-scale study to document the extent of the race gap in heart disease, researchers reported that one in 100 black adults develop heart failure in their 30s and 40s, which is a rate 20 times higher than that of similarly aged white men and women; and

WHEREAS, the heart failure rate among young black adults was more like that of white men and women in their 50s and 60s; and

WHEREAS, the black adults in the study, who developed heart disease early, had at least one of four risk factors -high blood pressure, being overweight, chronic kidney disease or low levels of "good" cholesterol (high-density cholesterol, or HDL) (See Dr. Kirsten Bibbins-Domingo, author and co-director of the Center for Vulnerable Populations at the University of California, San Francisco, and San Francisco General Hospital); and

WHEREAS, children who rely on free or reduced-price school lunches have a disproportionate rise in poor health indicators, including obesity, risk for heart disease, diagnoses of cancer, and adult onset diabetes, which are linked to diet; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Cancer Society, the American Dietetic Association, the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the National Institutes of Health recommend a greater emphasis in the American diet on fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes, which contain fiber and essential nutrients, including vitamins and minerals, but are low in fat and calories and contain no cholesterol; and

WHEREAS, the USDA's Team Nutrition program has stated that less than 15 percent of children eat the minimum daily recommended servings of fruit, 35 percent eat no fruit on a given day, only 17 percent consume the minimum daily recommended servings of vegetables, and 20 percent eat no vegetables on a given day, and exposure to vegetarian entrees in the school cafeteria would positively influence children with poor eating habits; and

WHEREAS, school children who identify themselves as vegetarian or vegan or are from families who avoid meat and dairy foods may be at a disadvantage if no appropriate school lunch meals are offered in their respective schools; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that plant-based meals rich in complex carbohydrate foods (such as beans, lentils, grains, potatoes, pasta, and oranges) are less expensive than meals featuring animal proteins; and

WHEREAS, in April 2015, a jail in Arizona went vegetarian and the prison saved \$200,000 by spending money on meatless food in the first year of the program. Arizona spends approximately \$25,000 per inmate per year, which is the amount Maryland spends on each student; and

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WHEREAS, Maryland annually spends \$44,601 per inmate per year with a total of approximately 24,028 prisoners at an annual cost of approximately \$1,071,682,231; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that Maryland could save up to \$600,000 per year by transitioning the entire meal servings to plant-based meals; and

WHEREAS, the Victor Valley Medium Community Correctional Facility in Adelanto, California reported that in 1997 when it started its plant-based meal program called New Start, its recidivism rate, (rate of re-arrest) for their released inmates was only two percent (2%), but the state average in California is over 90 percent; and

WHEREAS, to address this health concerns of school children and to lower recidivism rates in California prisons, the California Legislature recently passed SB 1138, which mandates plant-based meal options in K-12 schools, prisons and hospitals; and

WHEREAS, on July 10, 2018 the Northern District of New York District Court held that prisons must serve prisoners plant-based meals based on their dietary needs and convictions.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that advocacy for mandatory plant-based meals in prisons and options for plant-based meals in K-12 schools and hospitals shall be a 2020 legislative priority for the NAACP, consistent with the data-driven research regarding the health outcomes provided by plant-based meals and consistent with the California legislation which passed a mandatory plant-based meal option for K- 12 schools and hospitals and mandated 100% plant-based meals in prisons to reduce the current recidivism rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that by the Fall 2021 school year, all K-12 schools, prisons and hospitals will implement the plant-based meal options or 100% plant-based meal program and that the K-12 meal options shall include whole meal options and not just "side dish" options for children, said meal plans shall include a high concentration of whole fruits and vegetables as grown.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all institutions shall provide plant-based meal education and/or demonstrations or tasters to identify the most tasteful and culturally relevant plant-based alternatives and recipes that replace animal products to ensure consumption by students, inmates and patients.

10. *Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program (EEHIP)*

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act has expanded health care coverage to millions of people; and

WHEREAS, roughly 27 million people are uninsured, many of whom do not know that they are eligible for free or low-cost health coverage; and

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WHEREAS, more uninsured consumers can be reached through income-tax filling than in any other setting; and

WHEREAS, tax returns are filed by more than 7 in 10 uninsured people who qualify for financial help to pay for health coverage; and

WHEREAS, by making it easy for young and healthy adults to join the individual market, proposed Easy Enrollment Health Program legislation would help stabilize premiums; and

WHEREAS, Easy Enrollment Health Program legislation would provide thousands of families with the access to health care, financial security, and peace of mind that come with health coverage.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People supports the creation of an **Easy Enrollment Health Insurance Program (EEHIP)** in all states that would provide families with access to affordable health care by using the tax system to open an easy pathway to health insurance.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that each State/State Area Conference, through its Political Action Committee, is hereby requested to put forth its best efforts to introduce a bill similar to the Maryland EEHIP legislation, to ensure the accomplishment of the goals of this resolution.

11. *Mental Health Post Traumatic Prison Condition*

WHEREAS, the combination of anxiety, insomnia, depression and the effects of incarceration are symptoms of Post Traumatic Prison Condition; and

WHEREAS, trauma and PTSD typically go unrecognized and untreated within the prison population. Unless they receive intervention to address their complicated trauma-related issues, they will return to their families and communities with potentially even more severe mental health needs and fewer skills; and

WHEREAS, the American criminal justice system holds almost 2.3 million people in 1,719 state prisons, 109 federal prisons, 1,772 juvenile correctional facilities, 3,163 local jails, and 80 Indian Country jails, as well as in military prisons, immigration detention facilities, civil commitment centers, state psychiatric hospitals, and prisons in the U.S. territories. An additional 4.7 million people are on probation or parole; and

WHEREAS, the fastest growing population in U.S. prisons are women, entering at nearly double the rate of men. Trauma is a key factor to their entry; and

WHEREAS, incarcerated women with higher rates of trauma understandably also have higher rates of anxiety, depression and explosive anger than those without such histories; and

WHEREAS, Black women are still approximately six times more likely to be incarcerated than white women, mirroring the racial disparities seen in the male population and are still much less likely to be involved in violent crime; and

WHEREAS, parents with minor children make up 54 percent of people incarcerated in prisons and jails, with more than 120,000 mothers and 1.1 million fathers; and

WHEREAS, at least 95 percent of people incarcerated in state prisons will be released back to their communities at some point; and

WHEREAS, American correctional facilities are known for high recidivism rates. On a national level, 76 percent of all inmates end up back in jail within five years; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. black population in particular is disproportionately affected by both trauma and contact with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, not only were individuals with a history of arrest more likely to experience traumatic events, they tended to experience them at an earlier age than individuals who were not arrested; and

WHEREAS, there are different types of trauma and contact with the criminal justice system specific to certain types of violent trauma (e.g., rape or assault vs. combat or war-related experiences) or there is a cumulative effect of repeated exposure to trauma and likelihood of involvement with the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, a recent study could not exactly pinpoint the causes of PTSD in this population. It is believed that it could be that people with PTSD are more likely to be arrested and incarcerated or that prison time directly leads to the development of PTSD, or both; and

WHEREAS, PTSD is a devastating and life-changing condition when left untreated. It is associated with unemployment, suicide, domestic violence, assaults, substance abuse and other mental health issues; and

WHEREAS, current estimates indicate suicide is the leading cause of death in jails and juvenile facilities. Suicide also is the fifth most common cause of death in state and federal prisons; and

WHEREAS, formerly incarcerated individuals struggle to reestablish or repair personal relationships and must also find employment and housing. Reentry is a time when individuals are more at risk to attempting suicide.

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THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP strongly supports measures that will ensure prison personnel, from guards to administrators, possess basic core competencies in trauma-informed mental health.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP strongly supports a policy that provides comprehensive services to incarcerated persons by care givers credentialed in trauma and behavioral care.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will advocate on the state and national level that there should be an investment in behavioral healthcare services, including screening, assessment and clinical interventions for trauma. Also, providing trauma informed services should be the standard of care by frontline psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses and other professionals in correctional settings and settings serving formerly incarcerated Individuals.

HOUSING

1. *Budget Lines Item for Public Housing*

WHEREAS, public housing is one of the nation's three main rental assistance programs, along with "Section 8" vouchers and project-based rental assistance. Public housing developments provide affordable homes to 2.2 million low-income Americans; and

WHEREAS, the nation's 1.12 million public housing units are located in all 50 states and several territories, nearly one in five of them in rural areas. As of 2008, more than 60 percent of units (based on available data) were in areas with low or moderate poverty rates, meaning that less than 30 percent of residents were poor. Only about a fifth were in areas where at least 40 percent of residents were poor; and

WHEREAS, while the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) oversees the public housing program, it is administered locally by about 3,100 public housing agencies. Most agencies own and manage the public housing developments themselves, but some contract with private management companies or transfer ownership to a private subsidiary or another entity that operates the development under public housing rules; and

WHEREAS, most tenants pay 30 percent of their income (after certain deductions are taken out) for rent and utilities. Housing agencies can choose to require families to pay a minimum rent of up to \$50 even if this is more than 30 percent of their income, and families can opt to pay a flat rent based on local market rents regardless of their income; and

WHEREAS, public housing helps families to afford modest housing and avoid homelessness or other kinds of housing instability. Some developments provide access to neighborhoods with stronger schools and more job opportunities, where it might otherwise be difficult for low-income families to rent homes. For frail seniors and people with disabilities, public housing enables them to remain in their home communities and avoid or delay moving into nursing homes or other institutions that are much more costly (for state and federal governments as well as families); and

WHEREAS, public housing can help families avoid housing instability that could make it difficult to find or keep a job. In addition, by limiting housing costs, public housing leaves families with more resources for work expenses like child care and transportation (as well as basic needs like food and medicine). In 2010, 89 percent of public housing households were elderly, had disabilities, worked, had recently worked, or were subject to work requirements through another program; and

WHEREAS, about 85 percent of public housing units meet or exceed HUD standards for decent, safe housing, but some units, nearly all of which were built before 1985, have accumulated large underlying renovation needs. A 2010 HUD study estimated the total unmet capital need in public housing developments at more than \$26 billion; and

WHEREAS, no funds have been provided to build additional public housing since the mid-1990s. Since then, housing agencies have demolished or otherwise removed from the program more than 260,000 units due to deterioration resulting from long-term underfunding and other factors. Agencies have built new units to replace only about one-sixth of those that have been removed; and

WHEREAS, the federal government funds public housing through two main streams: (1) the Public Housing Operating Fund, which is intended to cover the gap between the rents that public housing tenants pay and the developments' operating costs (such as maintenance and security); and (2) the Public Housing Capital Fund, which funds renovation of developments and replacement of items such as appliances and heating and cooling equipment; and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (which Congress first funded in 2010 and has replaced the similar "HOPE VI" program) provides a small number of grants each year to revitalize distressed public housing developments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People shall advocate for increased funding for Public Housing as a line item in Federal, State, and City budgets.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will collaborate with other organizations and entities to conduct workshops on the process of engaging elected officials to accomplish the objectives set forth above.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

1. *Opposition to the Use of the Blockchain Identity*

WHEREAS, Blockchain technologies are being developed as tools of digital identity management; and

WHEREAS, transaction data pertaining to vital records, voting, ownership, healthcare, professional and educational credentials, employment, and financial income can be stored on Blockchain systems; and

WHEREAS, global technology interests are placing heavy pressure on governments to scale Blockchain adoption as a financial tool within proposals to privatize public services, including Public-Private Partnerships (P3); and

WHEREAS, governmental interests are exploring the use of "smart contracts" on Blockchain as a means of delivering public benefits; and

WHEREAS, public benefits distributed via "smart contracts" can incorporate coded interventions that preference specific behavioral outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the use of "programmable money/digital currency" may undermine the ability of benefit recipients to make autonomous economic choices and indenture the future wealth of such populations; and

WHEREAS, aggregation of an individual's public benefit data within a Blockchain identity system could exacerbate punitive profiling of recipients of services; and

WHEREAS, prototypes linking Blockchain systems to profit extraction through social impact investment initiatives have already been developed; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of billions of dollars have already been directed into social impact investments by the world's most powerful individuals and financial institutions; and

WHEREAS, consolidation of personal data in Blockchain identity systems will position the global poor who receive benefits via smart contracts to become data backbones upon which "impact" metrics would rest, in effect amplifying investment wealth of elite investors on the backs of vulnerable communities; and

WHEREAS, researchers have warned of the harms of relying on Blockchain systems, given the immutable nature of the technology that would mean false data and/or embedded vulnerabilities would never fully be able to be reversed, remedied, redacted, nor deleted; and

WHEREAS, security flaws are already rampant in Blockchain systems that claim to be secure, leading to the compromised integrity of the systems, and to highly sensitive personal information being vulnerable to exploitation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP opposes any state or federal legislation that would require an individual to create a Blockchain identity in order to receive any public services or benefits, including but not limited to education, healthcare, addiction treatment, behavioral health services, law enforcement, housing, and/or food and nutrition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP will engage in community education efforts to communicate to the public about the structure, function, benefits and inherent risks of Blockchain technologies.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

1. *Support for the NAACP's Next Generation (NextGen) Program*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) launched its pilot Next Generation (NEXTGEN) Young Professional Leadership Program in 2018; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP Next Generation Program is a 12-month leadership development training program for young adult NAACP members between the ages of 21 and 35 to be trained on social justice, civic engagement, health advocacy, criminal justice, economic empowerment, education, legislative action and direct action to be actively volunteer in adult branches; and

WHEREAS, membership is the lifeblood of the NAACP; and

WHEREAS, all NEXTGEN graduates are Subscribing Life Members of an Adult Branch in their jurisdiction and all NEXTGEN participants are required to become a Subscribing Life Members of an Adult Branch within 30 days of acceptance into the NEXTGEN Program; and

WHEREAS, young adults and professionals are significant force-multipliers within the community, tend to be highly civically engaged and active in aggressively creating change; and

WHEREAS, this young adult and professional population has a critical role to play in the future of the NAACP in terms of leadership, talent, resources and capacity; and

WHEREAS, the longevity of the NAACP benefits from investing in a progressive young adult base; and

WHEREAS, the NEXTGEN Program graduated 74 NAACP members in its first 2018 inaugural class, representing Branches in 29 states and 7 regions; and

WHEREAS, NEXTGEN participants receive comprehensive leadership and advocacy training in order to develop leadership competencies that will enable them to become effective civil rights leaders, volunteers and active members of Adult Branches; and

WHEREAS, NEXTGEN training topics include NAACP Game Changers: Economic, Health, Education, Criminal Justice, Get Out the Vote (GOTV), and Environmental Justice; and

WHEREAS, NEXTGEN works in tandem with Leadership 500 (L500) and the NAACP's Youth & College Division in order to deliver a vertically aligned leadership development initiative.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP recognizes the NAACP NEXTGEN Program and supports its leadership education components through the continuation of in-person training sessions, issue-based advocacy webinars, and any other professional development opportunities available to its graduates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Branch, State/State-Area Conference and Regional Leadership are urged to make every effort to support young adult members to actively engage volunteer workers in Branches.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NAACP Branches and State/State Area Conferences are urged to welcome and engage young adult NAACP members and NEXTGEN NAACP members to volunteer as active members of Branch Committees and NAACP projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP advocates for continued support of the NAACP NEXTGEN Program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP encourages all Units to motivate young adults to participate in the NAACP NEXTGEN Program.

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2. Accessible Venues

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the oldest and boldest civil rights organization, having been fighting against discrimination for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, disability is a normal part of the human experience; and

WHEREAS, nationally, people of color have the highest rate of disability among working age adults, including Native Americans at 16%, African Americans at 11% and Hispanics at 7%; and

WHEREAS, 1 in 4 U.S. adults, approximately 61 million Americans, have a disability that impacts major life activities; and

WHEREAS, more than 50% individuals with a disability reported that their disability was severe; and

WHEREAS, based on the 2010 Census, nearly 6.7million people, or about 19 percent of the population, had a disability according to a broad definition of disability; and

WHEREAS, there are currently about 2.7 million wheelchair users in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP state, regional and national conferences are held at venues across the country and persons with disabilities are encouraged to attend and participate.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP shall ensure all venues where NAACP events are held are in compliance with the Americans with Disability Act (ADA).

3. Inclusion of LGBTQ Diversity and Sensitivity Training in NAACP Programs

WHEREAS, the mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is to secure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights in order to eliminate race-based discrimination and ensure the health and well-being of all persons; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the NAACP voted in favor of supporting marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2017, the NAACP held an LGBTQ workshop as part of its 108th Annual Convention on in Baltimore, MD; and

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2017, President Derrick Johnson stated, “We pledge today to stand with our transgender brothers and sisters as we continue to fight any efforts to codify discrimination into law,” and

WHEREAS, the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transitioning, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community is sensitive in nature; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP should be sensitive and inclusive of members of the LGBTQ+ community through NAACP trainings and programs, including but not limited to, National Convention, CRATI and the NEXTGEN Training Programs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the NAACP shall encourage the promotion of diversity and sensitivity trainings in all NAACP trainings and programs to encourage the inclusion of members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transitioning, and Queer (LGBTQ+) community as active Civil Rights activists and fighters within the NAACP.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS/IMMIGRATION

1. *Promoting and Celebrating Eritrea & Ethiopia*

WHEREAS on July 21, 2018 Eritrea appointed an ambassador to Ethiopia — the first one in 20 years; and

WHEREAS Ethiopians and Eritreans responded with great joy to the news that one of the longest ongoing conflicts had come to an end; and

WHEREAS the United Nations hailed the move as a "new wind of hope" in Africa; and

WHEREAS THE NAACP Joined the United Nations in Promoting and Celebrating the international Decade for People of African Decent with a 2015 resolution; and

WHEREAS, in December 2013, the General Assembly of the United Nations (U.N.) officially adopted a resolution proclaiming the decade beginning in 2015 and through 2024 as the International Decade for People of African Descent; and

WHEREAS, our society grows stronger through civil dialogue. When we open our hearts and our minds to learn from one another; and

WHEREAS, NAACP should foster dialogue and community engagement with Ethiopians and Eritreans by recognizing our similarities, which can make us more open to better accepting and even celebrating our differences and knowledge with people from different backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, by finding common ground, the NAACP, Ethiopians and Eritreans Communities can identify ways to focus on positive social change that will help strengthen our communities; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP looks to Ethiopians and Eritreans Communities to become new members in the organization through interconnectivity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP joins the Ethiopians and Eritreans celebrating and promoting the Joint Declaration of Peace and Friendship between Eritrea-Ethiopia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NAACP supports dialogue about how we can all contribute to building a community of opportunity within Ethiopians and Eritreans Communities.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that beyond exploring challenges, the NAACP should imagine and delineate possibilities for collaboration among people of Ethiopians and Eritreans that could strengthen our communities and countries.

LEGISLATIVE AND POLITICAL ACTION

1. *Support an Aggressive Plan to Increase Pell Grants and Other Programs to Help People Afford a Secondary Education*

WHEREAS, student loan debt has reached crisis levels in the United States. The nation's borrowers now owe an astounding \$1.5 trillion in federal student loan debt, meaning more than 44 million Americans have student loans. College debt has increased 170 percent since 2006 and is second only to mortgage debt and surpasses even credit card debt; and

WHEREAS, as far back as 2007, the NAACP called for the Federal government to take action to make a post-high school education more affordable, with its resolution from that year entitled "*NAACP Supports Legislative Initiatives to Make College More Affordable and Accessible to All Americans;*" and

WHEREAS, a college degree is increasingly important: college-degree holders earn over 65 percent more than workers with only high school diplomas, and the unemployment rate for workers with a college degree is less than half that of those with only a high school diploma; and

WHEREAS, among the Class of 2018, 69% of college students took out student loans. The average four-year college graduate leaves school with roughly \$30,000 in debt; and

WHEREAS, student loan debt disproportionately affects communities of color. For people of color, even a bachelor's degree is not a safeguard against crushing debt: Families of color are more likely to need to borrow for higher education, will have less income with which to pay the loans, and have less of a cushion to withstand future financial shocks, thus contributing to a higher likelihood of delinquency and default on student loan debt. African-American bachelor's degree graduates default at five times the rate of white bachelor's degree graduates, and are more likely to default than whites who never finish a degree; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, 42% of African-American families had student debt compared to 34% of white families. Moreover, African American students hold \$7,400 more in debt than white students at graduation; and

WHEREAS, women – and particularly African-American women—are more likely to struggle with student loan debt. Approximately 34 percent of all women and 57 percent of African American women who were repaying student loans reported that they had been unable to meet essential expenses within the past year. Women graduate, on average, with \$2,700 more in student loan debt than men, and because they earn about 26% less, paying off their debt takes significantly longer; and

WHEREAS, each year, more than 7.5 million students rely on Pell grants to afford college. The vast majority of Pell recipients have family incomes under \$40,000. Pell grants make higher education accessible to groups which have historically been shut out of colleges and universities, including racial and ethnic minority American students, as such 60% of African-American undergraduates and almost half of Hispanic or Latino undergraduates rely on Pell Grants to attend school; and

WHEREAS, the federal government changes the maximum Pell grant award amount every year. The 2019-20 maximum is \$6,195, \$100 more than in 2018-19. All eligible students receive at least 10% of the maximum award amount for the year, depending on financial need. Pell Grant recipients are already more than twice as likely as other students to have student loans (57% vs. 27%). More than 8 out of 10 Pell Grant recipients who graduate from four-year colleges have student loans, and their average debt is \$4,500 more than their higher income peers; and

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WHEREAS, the money available for Pell grants has been eroding for decades. In the 1980s, the maximum Pell Grant covered over half the cost of attending a four-year public college. In contrast, the \$6,095 maximum Pell Grant in 2018-19 covers just 28% of the cost of college; and

WHEREAS, for-profit colleges are a major driver of student loan debt. For-profit, post-secondary institutions are more expensive than many other schools, and borrowers are less likely to be able to repay their loans when they leave. Unfortunately, because a disproportionate number of students at for-profit colleges are low-income students and students of color, this means that the burden of large loans and very little to no educational benefit is higher among those populations; and

WHEREAS, the rate of homeownership, one of the most important ways to build wealth, has returned to fifty-year lows and the African-American homeownership rate is as low as it was when the federal Fair Housing Act was passed in 1968. One contributing factor is student loan debt. Research from the National Association of Realtors has demonstrated that student loans are leading to serious delays in home purchases, with the average student loan borrower delaying the purchase of their first home by an average of seven years; and

WHEREAS, in 2013-2014, the average total cost of attendance at all HBCUs was 26 percent lower than the average total cost at all four-year non-profit colleges; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Education has ended a years-long information sharing agreement with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and has signaled, via the Federal Register, that it no longer intends to routinely share information with other federal and state law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, several states have already begun to take legislative and enforcement actions related to unfair and deceptive practices of student loan servicers and for-profit colleges; and

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) recognizes that student loan debt is a \$1.5 trillion crisis, and that this crisis disproportionately affects people of color therefore perpetuating the “racial wealth gap;” and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress can and should make it possible for any American to attain a post-secondary degree or credential without going into debt.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirm its 2007 resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will work through state legislatures and the federal government to support affirmative legislation addressing the student loan crisis, including reforms of for-profit colleges and student loan servicing.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports increased aid for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs); increasing both discretionary and mandatory aid to these institutions is essential to their survival.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP urges the federal government and the states to increase funding for low-income students to attend college, including increasing federal Pell Grants to their original (1965) value as a percentage of college cost.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP will work to restore Pell grant's automatic annual inflation adjustment, which expired after 2017-2018.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP demands that the U.S. Department of Education reinstate information sharing policies with other federal and state enforcement agencies.

2. *Candidate Financial Disclosures*

WHEREAS, the current President of the United States as of 2019 has not provided any personal financial disclosures to Congress or to the American public-at-large; and

WHEREAS. President Trump broke with decades of tradition for presidential candidates by refusing to release his income tax filings during his 2016 campaign. He has said he won't release them because he is being audited, even though IRS officials have said taxpayers under audit are free to release their returns. Trump claimed at a news conference following the November election that the filings are too complex for people to understand; and

WHEREAS. President Trump was the first major party candidate since 1976 not to release his tax returns with the exception of Republican Gerald Ford. Ford lost to Democrat Jimmy Carter in 1976. He did not release his tax returns. Ford released only a summary of his tax data. This information is confirmed by an archive of presidential tax returns maintained by the Tax Analysts, a publisher specializing in tax policy; and

WHEREAS, candidates running for president (or any federal office), state-wide or county office should be required to detail their financial holdings, debt and sources of income so that the public can identify any conflicts of interest they may have; and

WHEREAS, federal law requires congressional candidates who raise or spend at least \$5,000 to detail their assets and liabilities in a report to congressional ethics committees; and

WHEREAS, transparency and financial disclosures of political candidates is essential for voters to view to discern potential conflicts of interest.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP supports legislation providing that anyone running for County, Statewide or Federal office must submit the last 10 years of Income tax and

Financial Records, and that failure to disclose the information shall disqualify the candidate from being included on the ballot.

3. *Reparations Suspended to Combine All Amendments*

WHEREAS, African Americans have been enslaved in the United States from 1619 to 1865 and people of African descent have been murdered, brutalized, made victims of genocide, sexually assaulted and economically depressed based on race in the United States from 1619 through the civil rights movement. Evidence of this systemic racism are still present today. The United States government must atone for the actions in the name of the United States government against Black people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, there is legal precedent for reparations and numerous prior recommendations for reparations. The Policy of "40 acres and a mule," was Union General William T. Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15, issued January 16, 1865, provided for the massive land redistribution actually was the result of a discussion that Sherman, the Secretary of War, and 20 leaders of the Black Community. Section one of the order states: "The islands from Charleston. South Carolina, the abandoned rice fields along the rivers for thirty miles back from the sea, and the country bordering the St. Johns River, Florida, are reserved and set apart for the settlement of the Negroes [sic] now made freely the acts of war and the proclamation of the President of the United States." Section two specifies that these new communities, moreover, would be governed entirely by black people themselves: " . . . on the islands, and in the settlements hereafter to be established, no white person whatever. unless military officers and soldiers detailed for duty, will be permitted to reside; and the sole and exclusive management of affairs will be left to the freed people themselves ... By the laws of war, and orders of the President of the United States, the negro [sic] is free and must be dealt with as such." Finally, section three specifies the allocation of land: "... each family shall have a plot of not more than (40) acres of tillable ground, and when it borders on some water channel, with not more than 800 feet water front, in the possession of which land the military authorities will afford them protection, until such time as they can protect themselves, or until Congress shall regulate their title."

With this Order, *400,000 acres* of land -"a strip of coastline stretching from Charleston, South Carolina, to the St. John's River in Florida including Georgia's Sea Islands and the mainland thirty miles in from the coast," as Barton Myers reports - would be redistributed to the newly freed slaves. President Andrew Johnson overturned the order in the fall of 1865, and, "returned the land along the South Carolina, Georgia and Florida coasts to the planters who had originally owned it"- to the very people who had declared war on the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the next push for reparations took place at the turn of the century. Several black organizations lobbied Congress to provide pensions for former slaves and their children. One bill introduced into the U.S. Senate in 1894 would have granted direct payments of up to \$500 to all ex-slaves plus monthly pensions ranging from \$4 to \$15. This, and several similar bills, died in

congressional committees. The pension movement itself faded away with the onset of World War I; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960s, some black leaders revived the idea of reparations. In 1969, James Forman (then head of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee) proclaimed a "Black Manifesto." It demanded \$500 million from American churches and synagogues for their role in perpetuating slavery before the Civil War. Black Nationalist organizations, such as the Black Panther Party and Black Muslims, also demanded reparations; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, a new call arose for black reparations. It was stimulated by two other movements that successfully secured payments from the U.S. government. The Supreme Court in 1980 ordered the federal government to pay eight Sioux Indian tribes \$122 million to compensate for the illegal seizure of tribal lands in 1977. Then in 1988, Congress approved the payment of \$1.25 billion to 60,000 Japanese-American citizens who had been interned in prison camps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, in April 1989, Council Member Ray Jenkins guided through the Detroit City Council a resolution. It called for a \$40 billion federal education fund for black college and trade school students. About the same time, a conference of black state legislators meeting in New Orleans backed the idea of a federally financed education fund for descendants of slaves. Shortly afterward, Rep. John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI) drafted a bill calling for the establishment of a congressional commission to study the impact of slavery on African-Americans; and

WHEREAS, reparations are a financial recompense for African-Americans whose ancestors were slaves and lived through the Jim Crow era. The enslavement and overall persecution of Black people in the United States has enriched the United States and created disparities in income, wealth and education between blacks and whites. The current-day legacy of slavery and Jim Crow, and that action is needed to reduce these differences. As Tahcsi-Coates says in a recent *Atlantic Magazine* article "The Case for Reparations": "What I'm talking about is more than recompense for past injustices -- more than a handout, a payoff, hush money, or a reluctant bribe. What I'm talking about is a national reckoning that would lead to spiritual renewal" ;and

WHEREAS, in the first order, the NAACP should support reparations for Black people in the United States. We need a race-centered economic empowerment package for African Americans that builds generational wealth and accounts for not only slavery but the decades upon decades of economic pillaging. Colorlines, a publication run by Race Forward, reported that "the U.S. government spends billions subsidizing farming in America, yet Black farmers today receive only one-third to one-sixth of that... and the Southern Rural Development Initiative found that less than 1 percent of agriculture subsidy payments between 2001 and 2003 went to Blacks, Native Americans and Asian Americans." Worse inequality has only grown since the Great Depression wiped out any gains black people made in the post-civil rights era. Today, without intervention, it would take an African-American household 228 years to build the same amount

of wealth as our white counterparts. Second, in determining what form reparations should take, the United States government should be required to atone in the following way:

- Reparations would involve a national apology, rights to the cannabis industry, financial payment, social service benefits, and land grants to every descendant of an enslaved African American and Black person a descendant of those living in the United States including during American slavery until the Jim Crow era. 1965. Because slavery involved kidnapping, barbarism, and the stripping of language, culture and heritage, many Black people are unaware of their specific African heritage and which country in fact their ancestors were stolen from. The forged documentation, lack of documentation or non-existent documentation, from birth certificates to slave manifest, be it resolved that eligibility for these reparations requires the following: people that were born in the United States or naturalized citizens that have noted their Black heritage on the census, identify as Black on their birth certificate and/or have documentation of enslaved parentage in the United States, documentation of parentage residing in the United States prior to and during the Jim Crow era, and currently identify as Black American or African- American. Identification of African-American heritage is both a biological and physical representation of being African-American on a daily basis.
- Land grant of 40 acres: Each family of 3 or more individuals (parents & children) shall be granted 40 acres of tillable land. No taxes to be paid on the property for 5 years from the date the land is first bequeathed by the government. If taxes are not paid on the land or land is taken for any other reason (criminal seizure), those of African descent are to be given the first right of refusal and opportunity to purchase the land. Publication of land availability must be in place for one year from the date of tax lien is issued on the property. If after one year, no person of African descent (eligible based on the same criteria listed for reparation eligibility), then the land may be sold to an individual of Non-African descent.
- Social Services: Due to the disparity in life expectancy, that the descendants of enslaved people should be eligible earlier for receipt of benefits from Social Security, access to Medicare and other old age programs including store discounts, after participating in the workforce. The age for inclusion in these benefits distributions should be lowered by the difference in the life expectancy for African Americans as set within accepted insurance mortality tables. That the county including the Congress of the United States is aware of these discrepancies in mortality is evidenced by movements initiated during the George Bush, Jr. administration whereas the move to privatize social security was debated, part of the justification for the move was presented as an effort to make the system "benefit" African Americans in wealth creation by having African Americans in particular and all Americans "own" their wealth rather than dying and having less or nothing to leave to their descendants.

WHEREAS, there needs to be a national reckoning, new policies and structures and systemic structural changes, the NAACP submits reparations are the first step in repairing the devastation inflicted by slavery and racial discrimination. Ultimately when the Black community as a whole is excelling the country excels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms and stands in favor of financial reparations to African Americans and those of African Descent in the United States that are descendants of the slavery and the Jim Crow Era.

4. Student Loan Services – Unfair, Abusive or Deceptive Trade Practices

WHEREAS, student loan debt has reached crisis levels in the United States. The nation's borrowers now owe an astounding \$1.5 trillion in federal student loan debt. Seventeen percent of Americans owe money for their educations, and the average four-year college graduate leaves school with roughly \$30,000 in debt; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 85% of African American Bachelor recipients had student loan debt, compared to 69% of white BA recipients, 66% of Latino BA recipients, and 45% of Asian BA recipients; and

WHEREAS, the average debt in 2016 for African-American BA recipients was \$34,000, compared to just over \$30,000 for white BA recipients, and just under \$25,500 for Hispanic and Asian BA recipients with student loans; and

WHEREAS, women overall, and especially African American women are more likely to struggle with student loan debt. Approximately 34 percent of all women and 57 percent of African American women who were repaying student loans reported that they had been unable to meet essential expenses within the past year. Women graduate, on average, with \$2,700 more in student loan debt, and because they earn about 26% less, paying off their debt takes significantly longer. This is especially true for women of color, who face even greater income disparities. African American women have the greatest average amount of student loan debt; and

WHEREAS, the rate of homeownership, one of the most important ways to build wealth, has returned to fifty-year lows and the African American homeownership rate in 2019 is as low as it was when the federal Fair Housing Act was passed in 1968. One major contributing factor is student loan debt. Research from the National Association of Realtors has demonstrated that student loans are leading to serious delays in home purchases, with the average student loan borrower delaying the purchase of their first home by an average of seven years; and

WHEREAS, student loan servicers are a critical link in determining whether people will have a pathway towards paying off their debt, or simply be continually rolled into one unaffordable payment after another. With very few federal or state guidelines, nefarious servicers have engaged in a range of abusive practices like misapplying student loan payments and placing

borrowers into plans that simply delay the debt rather than repay it. These actions and others cause student debt to balloon for individual borrowers, and thus contribute to the growing student loan crisis; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education has recently signaled that it is willing to make it easier for servicers of federal student loan debt to operate with less oversight and fewer protections for students, both by rolling back existing federal guidance and by seeking to thwart states' rights to protect students in their own states against student loan abuses; and

WHEREAS, several states have already begun to take legislative and enforcement actions related to unfair and deceptive practices of student loan servicers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NAACP urges the Congress to recognize outstanding student loan debt as a crisis, and to work across party lines to find a solution that will benefit America's student loan borrowers and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP will work through state legislatures to support affirmative legislation addressing the student loan crisis, including reforms of student loan servicing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP urges states to enact legislation aimed at ensuring that students are treated fairly when trying to repay their debt, such as through legislation that sets standards for student loan servicers by banning unfair and deceptive practices as well as deliberate negligence or inaccuracy in loan servicing or reporting.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that NAACP affirms the position of state attorneys general, that states have the right to license and regulate the business of student lending and the servicers operating in their states.

5. Summer Food Supplement/Child Nutrition Reauthorization

WHEREAS, more than 12 million children in the United States live in "food insecure" homes, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), an estimated 11.8 percent of American households were food insecure at least some time during the year in 2017; and

WHEREAS, heads of households that included children receiving free or reduced-price lunch were more likely to be female, black, unmarried, and unemployed than other households, and

WHEREAS, food insecurity – even marginal food insecurity – is linked to some of the most common and costly health problems in the U.S., causing an estimated \$160 billion in direct and indirect health-related costs; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity is especially devastating for children, affecting their overall development and having a lasting impact on their cognitive performance. Adults who experienced food insecurity as children have lower levels of educational and technical skills; and

WHEREAS, participation in the federal child nutrition programs-the school Breakfast and Lunch Programs, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children-help reduce food insecurity and support better health; and

WHEREAS, the meals served through the federal child nutrition programs must meet federal nutrition standards and are linked to a healthy diet and healthy weight; and

WHEREAS, in addition, these programs are linked to positive outcomes for children. For example, the School Breakfast Program is linked to improved academic achievement and better test scores and attendance. The Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program in addition to providing nutritious meals help draw children into educational and enrichment programming, keeping them safe and learning when they are not at school.. ; and

WHEREAS, Congress has begun to work on reauthorizing the child nutrition programs, which creates the opportunity to increase the reach of the nutritious meals at school, during the summer, after school, and at quality child care.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP will work to fully fund child nutrition reauthorization and each Unit will work with its Congressional delegation to increase access to the critical federal child nutrition programs-the School Breakfast and Lunch Programs, the Summer Food Service Program, the Child and Adult Care Food Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), which all play a pivotal role in the growth and development of millions of our children.

VOTING RIGHTS

1. *The NAACP Re-affirms its Support for the Voting Rights for All and Lifting up Pro-Voter Solutions*

WHEREAS, voting rights for all Americans have, since the founding of our Association in 1909, been a primary goal; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP and its members shall never forget the men, women, and children who suffered and died so that all Americans can register and cast a free and unfettered vote and be

sure that vote is counted; and

WHEREAS, since 1909 the NAACP has passed resolutions calling for the enactment of federal legislation to nationalize many of the tools identified by state and local units throughout our nation as improving voter registration and turn-out and successful voter participation; and

WHEREAS, in the past several decades, these tools have included early voting, Sunday voting, same day registration, and automatic voter registration, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, the NAACP has also been on the leading edge of opposing schemes to suppress voting rights, including most recently photo identification requirements, proof of citizenship, and onerous requirements for non-partisan voter registration; and

WHEREAS, despite extensive voter registration by groups including the NAACP only about 64% of the U.S. voting-age population was registered in 2016; and

WHEREAS, overall voter turnout was 61.4% of all registered voters in 2016, a share similar to 2012 but below the 63.6% who say they voted in 2008; and

WHEREAS, in the 2016 Presidential election, the African-American voter turnout rate declined for the first time in 20 years in a presidential election, falling to under 60% after reaching a record-high of over 66% in 2012; and

WHEREAS, among highly developed, democratic states, turnout in the U.S. is fairly low, even in Presidential election years. Looking at the most recent nationwide elections in 32 democracies, the U.S. placed 26th out of 32; and

WHEREAS, the democracy with the highest voter turnout was Belgium, with over 87% of eligible voters casting a ballot. One factor behind Belgium's high turnout rates is that it is one of the 24 nations around the world with compulsory voting; and

WHEREAS, while [compulsory-voting laws](#) aren't always strictly enforced, their presence or absence can have dramatic impacts on turnout. In Chile, for example, turnout plunged after the country moved from compulsory to voluntary voting in 2012 and began automatically enrolling eligible citizens. Even though essentially all voting-age citizens were registered for Chile's 2013 elections, turnout in the presidential race plunged to 42%, versus 87% in 2010 when the compulsory-voting law was still in place; and

WHEREAS, voting is a civic duty comparable to other duties citizens are required to perform, including paying taxes or jury duty; and

WHEREAS, under compulsory voting, candidates can concentrate their campaigning energies on issues rather than encouraging particular voters to cast a ballot; and

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WHEREAS, the voter isn't actually compelled to vote for anyone because voting is by secret ballot.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms existing policies and the principles of an inclusive Democracy through:

- Prioritizing a pro-voter platform within our fight forward to combat racial injustices and disparities, as well as an opportunity to continue to build an independent political movement that aligns with our shared values;
- Demanding the reauthorization of Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act;
- Advocating to expand and protect voting rights at the federal and state level, including the modernization of voting through Automatic Registration, Online Registration, and Same Day Registration; making it easier for working people to vote by expanding Early Voting, Permanent Mail Ballot, and Vote By Mail; restoring the Rights of Returning Citizens; and maintaining and expanding the availability of Straight Ticket Voting and a host other voter protections that happen prior to elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will continue to fight to protect the voting rights of people of color and all people when they come under attack, especially against attempts to suppress votes in the lead-up to elections, including through support for community-focused voter education and voter protection efforts; changing structural rules to ensure that every vote and every voice counts equally; and, reshaping the political debate to demand full democracy at every level of government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will support efforts to dramatically increase the number of eligible Americans who register and vote, including but not limited to the following forward-facing solutions including:

- Compulsory voting;
- Elimination of voter registration barriers through universal automatic voter registration, Election Day as a Holiday; and
- Removal of restrictive poll places within jurisdictions.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP will never forget and shall always honor those who struggled, and were sometimes met with violence or death, in the name of voting rights for all Americans.

2. *Expanding the Electorate by Giving Youth a Voice in Their Future*

WHEREAS, in 2012, the NAACP passed a resolution (NAACP Calls for the Expansion of the Right to Vote to All Eligible Citizens and for Affirmative Steps to Increase the Integrity of Elections) that calls on "units to engage in advocacy efforts to advance progressive solutions that protect and expand voting rights ...and any proposed legislation that expands the electorate;" and

WHEREAS, the youth who are politically engaged are much more likely to remain so over time, and classrooms with "mock elections" have shown to increase teens political knowledge and engagement, and research shows a "trickle up" effect, when the child votes, the parent is more likely to do so also; and

WHEREAS, ages 18-24 are a poor time to start voting owing to the fact that most teens are leaving for college and starting jobs, and this demographic moves more frequently than others; and

WHEREAS, sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds can vote in Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Estonia in local elections, parts of Germany, Guernsey, Malta, Nicaragua, Scotland, Takoma Park, Maryland, Hyattsville, Maryland, Greenbelt, Maryland, and Berkeley, California in schoolboard elections; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Black voter turnout decreased for the first time in 20 years in a presidential election and among Millennials in 2016, Blacks were the only racial or ethnic group whose turnout decreased from 2012 rates, based on Census bureau data; and

WHEREAS, sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds will be impacted as much or more than older voters in many areas that are central to our politics and NAACP game changers (including, but not limited to gun violence and global climate change) but are not given a voice in the political process;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NAACP supports granting the right to vote to sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the NAACP will work to support legislation and ballot initiatives granting sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds the right to vote.

3. *Abolish Prison-Based Gerrymandering*

WHEREAS, the upcoming 2020 Census will count incarcerated people as residents of the towns where they happen to be imprisoned at the time of the census, rather than of their home communities; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of states will use this skewed information from the Census Bureau when drawing their district maps for state legislatures, even though they are not required to do so; and

WHEREAS, this practice, known as "prison-based gerrymandering," has the effect of artificially inflating the political power of rural and predominantly white communities where most prisons are located, while diluting the power of voters of color who live in the urban communities from which most prisoners originate; and

WHEREAS, this practice has the effect of denying equal representation to Black voters, in violation of the "one-person, one-vote" guarantees of the United States Constitution and many state constitutions; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 and 2010, the NAACP called for the Census Bureau to count prisoners as residents of their home communities, rather than where they are temporarily located against their will; and

WHEREAS, in the last decade, five states—California, Delaware, Maryland, New York, and Washington—have passed legislation correcting their practices of prison-based gerrymandering, and nine other states currently have legislation pending that would accomplish the same; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, the NAACP and its Connecticut State Conference commenced litigation in federal court challenging Connecticut’s unconstitutional prison gerrymandering scheme, and continue to make progress in that lawsuit; and

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced at the federal level to correct this injustice and a prohibition on “prison-based gerrymandering,” was included in extensive voting rights legislation, the NAACP-supported H.R. 1 in the 116th Congress, the *For The People* Act, which passed the House of Representatives in March 2019.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the NAACP reaffirms its 2009 and 2010 resolutions calling for the end of prison-based gerrymandering.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NAACP units will advocate in their state legislatures and governors’ offices for legislation that would eliminate prison-based gerrymandering in their states.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NAACP will continue to advocate in the U.S. Congress and in the executive branch for the Census Bureau to count prisoners as residing at their last home address.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the NAACP Office of the General Counsel will continue to explore the viability of federal and state litigation challenging prison-based gerrymandering.

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LEGISLATIVE

1. *Calling for the Impeachment of Donald John Trump, President of the United States of America*

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (“NAACP”) firmly believes in and upholds the bedrock principle that “no one is above the law”; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States of America is the supreme law of the land; and

WHEREAS, Article 2, Section 4 of the United States Constitution states “The President, Vice President and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other High Crimes and Misdemeanors”; and

WHEREAS, in his capacity as President of the United States, in disregard of the high duties of his high office, of the dignities and proprieties associated therewith, and of the respect for that office necessary to maintain stability within the United States, Donald John Trump has, through his words and actions, associated the presidency of the United States with racial, ethnic and religious bigotry on multiple occasions; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13769 providing for a partial shutdown of immigration from mainly Muslim countries to fulfill a bigoted campaign promise to implement a “Muslim ban”; and

WHEREAS, on July 26, 2017, President Trump made a public statement substantially as follows: “After consulting with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the U.S. Military,” thereby casting contempt on transgender individuals, inciting hate and hostility against such individuals, and sowing discord among the people of the United States on the basis of gender; and

WHEREAS, on August 15, 2017, President Trump made a widely-published statement characterizing a group of anti-Semites, bigots, racists, white nationalists, and Ku Klux Klansmen who rallied in Charlottesville, Virginia, as “very fine people,” thereby embracing and associating the presidency of the United States with racial and religious bigotry; and

WHEREAS, on January 11, 2018, President Trump held a meeting with a bipartisan group of Congressional leaders that focused primarily on legislation that would provide a statutory protected status for individuals brought to the United States without documentation. At this meeting, as has been widely published, President Trump referred to certain predominantly black Caribbean and African nations as “s-h-i-t-h-o-l-e” (or “s-h-i-t-h-o-u-s-e”) countries. He also questioned why we need more Haitians or people from African countries, proclaiming that we should take them out; and

WHEREAS, it has been widely reported that in April 2018, in furtherance of President Trump’s policy objectives, the United States Justice Department commenced a “Zero Tolerance” policy requiring all cases of unlawful entry into the United States be prosecuted, causing thousands of children to be separated from their parents without a prudent plan to reunite all of the said children with their parents; and

WHEREAS, the investigation into Soviet influence in the 2016 Presidential campaign by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, which was completed on March 22, 2019 and released to the public on April 18, 2019, expressed concern that the President of the United States might have obstructed justice or attempted to obstruct justice on at least seven different occasions and declined to exonerate President Trump for possible obstruction of justice; and,

WHEREAS, President Trump, in a tweet sent on [date], stated that certain members of Congress who he apparently believes to have immigrated to the United States do not belong in Congress and should “go back” to other countries, and has separately referred to immigrants and asylum seekers as “invaders”; and

WHEREAS, on July 25, 2019, President Trump spoke by phone with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Although the full transcript of that call has not been released, accounts from an intelligence professional who listened in on the call (and who subsequently filed a whistleblower complaint with the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community) strongly indicate that President Trump abused his office by soliciting assistance from a foreign country in generating “dirt” on a potential rival in the 2020 presidential election and, further, that White House officials tried to cover up President Trump’s transgression by burying the transcript of the call in a highly classified security system; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2019, the United States House of Representatives opened a formal “impeachment inquiry” into President Trump’s activities; and

WHEREAS, since the opening of the impeachment inquiry, the Trump Administration has failed to cooperate with requests for information, including by seeking to block certain government officials from testifying before the Congressional committees conducting the inquiry; and

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WHEREAS, through these and other actions, President Trump has consistently demonstrated he is unfit to be President, is unfit to represent the American values of decency and morality, respectability and civility, honesty and propriety, reputability; and

WHEREAS, President Trump has caused harm to the United States with his racist, misogynistic, xenophobic, and divisive rhetoric, and warrants impeachment and trial; and,

WHEREAS, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is grateful to Congressman Al Green (9th TX) for his efforts to begin the impeachment inquiry into the conduct of President Trump.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the NAACP supports and endorses the impeachment inquiry currently being conducted by the United States House of Representatives and supports enhancement of the subpoena process in light of attempts to frustrate the impeachment inquiry by those current and former government officials who have refused to testify or provide essential data and testimony requested by the committees conducting the impeachment inquiry.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the NAACP will educate our members and community at large on the roles that the U.S. House of Representatives, the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Supreme Court and the U.S. Justice Department and Attorney General play in the impeachment process, how the impeachment process works, and why it is essential in preserving our democracy.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the NAACP will coordinate our units and members to support the U.S. Congress in investigating, fully revealing and punishing the actions of President Trump that constitute “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors” under the United States Constitution.

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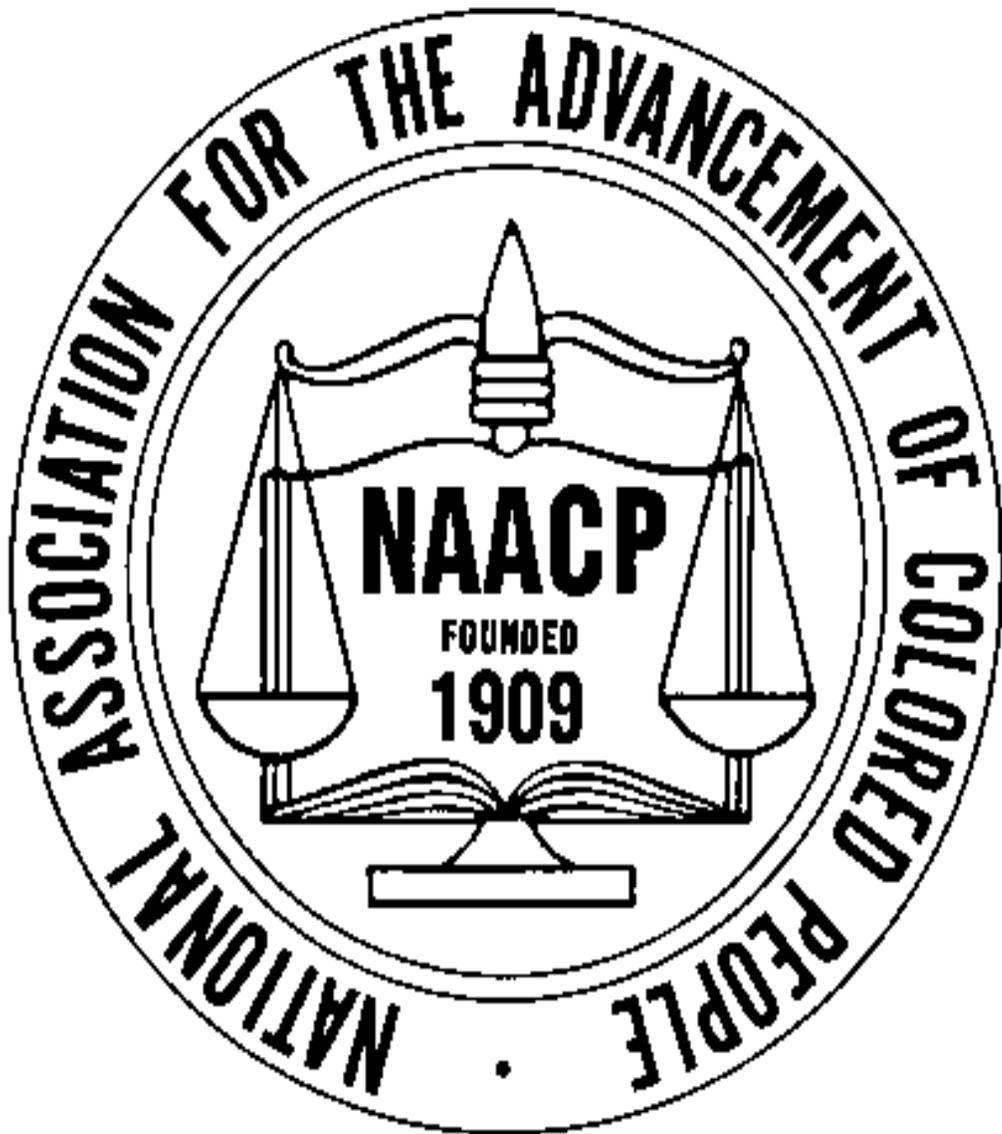
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