**RESOLUTION TO UPHOLD THE RIGHT TO VOTE**

**Supporting a Constitutional Amendment to Grant an Explicit Right to Vote, Establishing a Task Force on Voting, and Commencing a Call to Action**

WHEREAS, Women make up 51.6% of the voting age population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, US Census Bureau tracking of voting behavior indicates a persistent gap between men and women, where women both register and turnout to vote in significantly higher numbers than men; and

WHEREAS, Women make up 57% of the undergraduate and graduate student population of American universities; and

WHEREAS, Women make up 57% of the aged 65 and above population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, 18% of 18- to 24-year-olds as well as senior citizens aged 65 or older nationwide do not possess a form of photo ID; and

WHEREAS, Recent efforts at the state level to impose stringent voter ID requirements and to restrict early voting have a suppressive effect on ballot access that disproportionately impacts women; and

WHEREAS, of the 199 nations that elect their public officials using democratic elections, the United States is one of only 11 nations that does not have an explicit right to vote in its constitution; and

WHEREAS, the 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution provide that the right to vote shall not be denied or abridged based on race, sex, and age respectively, and the 24th Amendment prohibits poll taxes, but these amendments do not guarantee Americans an explicit right to vote; and

WHEREAS, an individual right to vote is a fundamental American right, and fundamental

rights should be guaranteed to all Americans in the U.S. Constitution.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_issues the following statements:

SECTION 1 – RIGHT TO VOTE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

We hereby affirm that the right to vote is a fundamental citizenship right to be cherished, protected, and exercised.

We call on members of Congress, and lawmakers in state legislatures, to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would grant an explicit right to vote to every American citizen of voting age.

We urge local jurisdictions around the nation to pass right to vote resolution, committing support for an explicit right to vote in the U.S. Constitution.

SECTION 2 – TASK FORCE ON VOTING

We shall establish a Right to Vote Task Force to ensure that all eligible voters, and particularly women voters, have continued access to voting and to:

* Review state and local laws and practices that may affect the right to vote in local, state and federal elections;
* Review and recommend changes at the local level to uphold voting rights and increase voter participation;
* Develop plans and take action to promote and expand early voting and same-day registration and make recommendations on any policies or actions needed to strengthen these efforts;
* Study the effects of voter ID requirements on ballot access for women, the elderly, the disabled, students, and low-income persons.

SECTION 3 – CALL TO ACTION

We call on state assemblies nationwide to institute preregistration for 16- and 17-year olds, to extend the early voting period, and institute same-day registration in early voting.

We call on state assemblies to remove the restrictive voter photo ID requirements.

We resolve that despite the obstacles to exercising our right to vote imposed by burdensome laws, we shall make every effort to ensure all voters can fully participate in every election in which they are eligible to cast a vote.

We shall provide suitable copies of this resolution to state governors and legislatures, the U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, and the U.S. President.