

H-03 RE-AFFIRMED EXISTING 2012 NHC RESOLUTIONS

URGE THE NCDP TO RESOLVE THAT CORPORATIONS ARE NOT PEOPLE; AND MONEY IS NOT SPEECH.

WHEREAS, On January 10, 2010, in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, a bitterly divided Supreme Court overturned a century of established precedent by ruling that corporate spending on candidate elections cannot be limited under the First Amendment. In so doing, Justices Roberts, Scalia, Thomas, Alito, and Kennedy effectively declared that corporations -legal entities defined by, and subject to, the laws of individual states- are indistinguishable from people with respect to federal law and the US Constitution. The decision likewise obliterates the common-sense distinction between corporate money and constitutionally protected free speech.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we affirm the need and support the effort to amend the US Constitution to reclaim our democracy from the corrupting effects of undue corporate influence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we proclaim that only human beings, not corporations, are entitled to constitutional rights; and money is not speech; and therefore regulating political contributions and spending is not equivalent to limiting political speech.

URGE THE NCDP TO: 1) END THE “WAR ON DRUGS”, 2) TREAT DRUG ABUSE AS A HEALTHCARE MATTER, AND 3) END CANNABIS PROHIBITION.

WE RECOGNIZE that the current approach to the “War on Drugs” is a costly failure. It empowers criminal cartels, destroys lives, infringes on civil rights, and fails to reduce drug use or availability.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the citizens who affirm this RESOLUTION urge our elected representatives, our candidates and our platform to call for policy changes to reduce incarceration, reform U.S. drug policy, eliminate racial inequities, and expand access to substance abuse treatment, mental health services and healthcare as needed by individuals and families — goals consistent with our party’s values; we need to move to a “harm reduction” model of combating the problem of drug abuse.

AND WE ARE FURTHER RESOLVED to allow for compassionate medical use of marijuana; and we call for an immediate end to the arrest and prosecution of medical marijuana patients in NC. We further call for the passage of legislation that will regulate cannabis in a workable distribution model, such as that proposed by the NC Medical Cannabis Act and re-affirmed through NC Democratic Party resolutions every year since 2010.

AND WE ARE FURTHER RESOLVED to urge the federal Administration to heed the recommendations of our major medical organizations to remove marijuana from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act to enable more unfettered research on its therapeutic use, and to ultimately explore options to allow for access to marijuana and cannabis products under manageable tax, health care, and law enforcement policies, policies similar to those used to control alcohol.

URGE STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS TO DENY ZONING FOR CARLONAS CEMENT IN SOUTHEASTERN NC

BE IT RESOLVED, that we request that the New Hanover County Commissioners deny Carolinas Cement Company's Special Use Permit for the health and economic harms that could result from this industrial activity.

URGE THE NCDP TO PROTECT WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

BE IT RESOLVED that we recognize that reproductive rights are issues of life and death for women, not mere matters of choice; and

ADDITIONALLY, WE RESOLVE to fully support access to safe and legal abortion, to effective birth control and emergency contraception, to reproductive health services and education for all women; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we oppose attempts to restrict these rights through legislation, regulation or Constitutional amendment, and support candidates and policies that will protect women's reproductive health care.