

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HIGHER EDUCATION AFFORDABILITY

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Constitution requires maintaining a system of public higher education whose benefits should "as far as practicable, be extended to the people of the State free of expense";

WHEREAS, the quality of North Carolina's higher education institutions has long been a source of pride for our state;

WHEREAS, higher education is an avenue of opportunity for young people to prepare themselves to be a part of a highly skilled, global workforce of the future;

WHEREAS, a generation of young Americans is graduating with crushing and oppressive student loan debt that prevents them from buying homes, cars, and supporting their families;

WHEREAS, US student loan debt has now exceeded all other sources of non-mortgage debt with a staggering tally of \$1.2 Trillion that accrued \$66 billion in profit on interest to the government in the years 2007-2012;

WHEREAS, student payments to tuition now exceed states' contributions to public universities including in North Carolina where tuition has been routinely increased to offset cuts in higher education funding by the General Assembly;

WHEREAS, recent North Carolina legislation unfairly shifted costs from the wealthy to students by cutting a tax on yacht and jet owners while authorizing a new tax on student meal plans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the North Carolina Democratic Party supports measures to make higher education affordable for ALL North Carolinians regardless of income in keeping with the State Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support measures to address student loan debt burden especially for students entering public service and lower income professions through interest rate reductions, loan forgiveness, income based repayment programs, and tax credits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support funding our public institutions of higher education fully so that our state's contribution to tuition shall routinely exceed that of our students in keeping with our commitment to college affordability.

Submitted to New Hanover County Convention
Dr. L. Kyle Horton, New Hanover County FP03
March 3, 2015

Also approved March 4, 2015 by:

M 84

W 16

W 30