



2016 RESOLUTIONS

National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women



Resolutions 2016-2017

Table of Contents

- I. Social and Economic Justice
 - SEJ-16-01: Promote Increased Educational, Economic, and Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Women and Girls of Color
- II. Children and Families
 - CF-16-01: Prioritizing the Realities of Black Women and Girls in the United States
- III. Education
 - EDU-16-01: Designating the months of June, July and August 2016 as "Summer Reading Games Months
- IV. Health
 - HEA-16-01: Malnutrition and Quality Health Care
 - HEA-16-02: Supporting youth tobacco prevention initiatives and advocating for the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco or tobacco-derived products in the United States to be raised from 18 to 21 years of age
 - HEA-16-03: MNG B Education
 - HEA-16-04: Biopharmaceutical Innovation
- V. Energy
 - ENE-16-01: Consumer Protection Resolution
- VI. Telecommunications
 - TEL-16-01: Urging the Federal Communications Commission to Modernize the Lifeline Program to Address the Homework Gap
 - TEL-16-02: Encouraging the Use of Free Data Programs
 - TEL-16-03: Encouraging the Support of Infrastructure Buildout to Pave the Way for Next Generation Networks
 - TEL-16-04: Encouraging Consumer Privacy Protections Across All Platforms



Promote Increased Educational, Economic, and Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Women and Girls of Color

COMMITTEE: Social and Economic Justice

RESOLUTION: SEJ-16-01

1. **WHEREAS**, American women of color are strong, resilient and dedicated to their families and
 2. communities, and are an essential part of our national economic and social fabric;
 3. **WHEREAS**, women of color are robust participants in the labor force: a greater share (62.1%) of
 4. Black or African American women than of White women (57.3%) are in the civilian labor force;
 5. **WHEREAS**, women of color are often the primary family breadwinners: in 2014, four in ten
 6. Black families with children under 18 were headed by a single working mother;¹
 7. **WHEREAS**, women of color are small business owners: there are nearly five million U.S.
 8. businesses owned by women of color, employing two million workers and generating \$344
 9. billion in revenues;
 10. **WHEREAS**, women of color earn far less than White males: Black women earn 66.2 percent of
 11. what White males earn, Hispanic women only 56.5 percent;
 12. **WHEREAS**, nearly half of households with young children that are headed by Black or Hispanic
 13. single women live in poverty;
 14. **WHEREAS**, African American and African Immigrant girls are suspended from school at six
 15. times the rate of White girls;
 16. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the 2016 Legislative Summit of the NOBEL
 17. Women, assembled in Fort Lauderdale, Florida that NOBEL Women support a multi-pronged
 18. approach to increase opportunities for women and girls of color to succeed and prosper—in
 19. school, in the workforce, and in small business ownership;
 20. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women support increasing the academic success
 21. of girls of color, leading to reduced school suspensions, increased on-time high school graduation
 22. rates, and pursuit of post-secondary education;
 23. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women support encouraging girls of color to
 24. explore and pursue STEM careers;
 25. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women support educating women and girls of
 26. color in financial literacy;
 27. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women support increasing the number of women
 28. of color in high-wage, high-demand, nontraditional jobs—the skilled trades and STEM
-



29. occupations—through job skills training and apprenticeships;
30. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women support small business loans and
31. technical assistance to businesses owned by women of color; and
32. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women send a copy of this resolution to the
33. President of the United States, members of Congress, state legislators, and regulatory agencies.

Introduced by: Representative Rena Moran (MN)

Prioritizing the Realities of Black Women and Girls in the United States



COMMITTEE: CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

RESOLUTION:CF-16-01

1. **WHEREAS**, numerous disparities currently exist for Black women in America;
2. **WHEREAS**, in 2014, Black women had the highest unemployment rate among women (10.5
3. percent) compared to white women (5.2 percent)¹;
4. **WHEREAS**, ongoing cuts to programs like Planned Parenthood means that millions of women of
5. color have either already lost or are at risk of losing their primary source of care for a range of health
6. services;
7. **WHEREAS**, according to FBI statistics, 300 girls in the Atlanta area are lured into sex trafficking
8. each month, including girls as young as 12, with the average age being 14²;
9. **WHEREAS**, Black girls are suspended six times more often than white girls--3x larger gap than
10. black boys to white boys comparison³;
11. **WHEREAS**, every year, 1,722 Black women die from breast cancer--an average of five Black
12. women a day⁴;
13. **WHEREAS**, Student debt makes up 111 percent of black women's income⁵;
14. **WHEREAS**, the median wages for Black women in the United States are \$33,533 per year⁶;
15. **WHEREAS**, Black women are paid, on average, just 60 cents for every dollar paid to white non-
16. Hispanic men⁷;
17. **WHEREAS**, In the 20 states with the largest number of Black women working full time, year round,
18. pay for Black women ranges from 48 to 69 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men⁸;
19. **WHEREAS**, of the nearly 4.1 million family households in the United States are headed by Black
20. women, 37 percent of those families live below the poverty level⁹;

¹ Urban Institute Report for Federal Bureau of Investigations, http://www.urban.org/research/publication/estimating-size-and-structure-underground-commercial-sex-economy-eight-major-us-cities/view/full_report (2014)

² US Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, Data Snapshot: School Discipline, <http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/rulesforengagement/CRDC%20School%20Discipline%20Snapshot.pdf> (2014)

³ Sinai Urban Health Institute, "2012 Racial Disparity in Breast Cancer Mortality Study" <https://www.avonfoundation.org/five-black-women-die-needlessly-per-day-breast-cancer-united-states/>

⁴ Institute for Women's Policy Research, "Looking Back, Looking Ahead: Chartbook on Women's Progress," <http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/ppi/2015/Chartbook-On-Women's-Progress.pdf> (2015)

⁵ National Partnership for Women & Families, African American Women and Wage Gap Fact Sheet, <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/workplace-fairness/fair-pay/african-american-women-wage-gap.pdf> (2015)

⁶ National Partnership for Women & Families, African American Women and Wage Gap Fact Sheet, <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/workplace-fairness/fair-pay/african-american-women-wage-gap.pdf> (2015)

⁷ National Partnership for Women & Families, African American Women and Wage Gap Fact Sheet, <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/workplace-fairness/fair-pay/african-american-women-wage-gap.pdf> (2015)

⁸ National Partnership for Women & Families, African American Women and Wage Gap Fact Sheet, <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/research-library/workplace-fairness/fair-pay/african-american-women-wage-gap.pdf> (2015)



21. **WHEREAS**, Black women represent 30% of all incarcerated women in the U.S., even though they
22. comprise 13% of the general population¹⁰;
23. **WHEREAS**, in 2015, the number of transgender homicide victims in the U.S. hit a historic high—
24. almost all of them transgender women of color, and not a single one was prosecuted or reported as a
25. hate crime¹¹;
26. **WHEREAS**, Black-owned women businesses are the fastest-growing segment of the women-owned
27. business market and are starting up at a rate six times higher than their national average¹²;
28. **WHEREAS**, an essential way to be My Brother’s Keeper and My Sister’s Supporter is to ensure that
29. their primary caregivers are equipped with the tools necessary for quality social, emotional, physical,
30. and financial well-being¹³;
31. **WHEREAS**, in March 2016, the Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls was inspired by
32. the #SheWoke Committee and courageously launched by U.S. House of Representative Chairs
33. Bonnie Watson Coleman (NJ), Robin Kelly (IL), and Yvette Clarke (NY), and ensures that the voices
34. of Black women and girls will be contemplated by national policymakers¹⁴;
35. **WHEREAS**, countless Black women legislators and their allies have created policies and legislation
36. that have dramatically improved the lives of Black women and girls domestically and abroad;
37. **WHEREAS**, while Black women make up 7.4 percent of the U.S. population and represent the
38. strongest voting demographic, they only account for 3.4 percent of U.S. Congress; 3.5 percent of state
39. legislators; 1.9 percent of mayors in cities of more than 30,000 people; and less than 1 percent of
40. statewide elected executives¹⁵;
41. **WHEREAS**, the nation owes a debt of gratitude to women of African descent in the United States
42. who continue to contribute greatly to society while enduring the unique intersection of institutional
43. racism, ongoing sexism, and social classism.
44. **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Organization of Black Elected

⁹ The Sentencing Project, "Incarcerated Women and Girls Fact Sheet," <http://www.sentencingproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Incarcerated-Women-and-Girls.pdf> (2015)

¹⁰ National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 2015 Open Letter, http://avp.org/storage/documents/webversion_ncavp_ma_national2015.pdf.

¹¹ American Express Commissioned Report, "2015 State of Women-Owned Businesses Report," http://www.womenable.com/content/userfiles/Amex_OPEN_State_of_WOBs_2015_Executive_Report_finalsm.pdf

¹² Center for American Progress, "Women of Color and the Gender Wage Gap," <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/report/2015/04/14/110962/women-of-color-and-the-gender-wage-gap/>(2015)

¹³ "There's Officially a Congressional Caucus on Black Women and Girls," Huffington Post, http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/official-congressional-caucus-on-black-women-and-girls_us_56f18294e4b09bf44a9eae8c

¹⁴ Center for American Politics and Higher Heights Report, "The Status of Black Women in American Politics," <http://d3n8a8pro7vnm.cloudfront.net/themes/51c5f2728ed5f02d1e00002/attachments/original/1404487580/Status-of-Black-Women-Final-Report.pdf?1404487580> (2014)



45. Legislative Women shall encourage:
46. (1) local and national elected officials to introduce at least one bill during “Black Women
47. and Girls Equity Month” specifically aimed to correct inequities disproportionately
48. experienced by **ALL** Black women, girls, and their communities, with particular
49. emphasis on livable wages; adequate healthcare; workplace equity; entrepreneurial
50. support; justice reform and alternatives;
51. (2) the protection from all forms of violence; environmental justice; and improving the
52. quality of life for **seniors, Black women and girls, living in and below the poverty**
53. **line, the mentally ill**, disabled, immigrant, veteran, trans, and homeless women and girls;
54. (3) participation in the first-ever “Defend Black Womanhood” March on Washington,
55. celebrating those who came before us, highlighting the current realities of Black women
56. and girls, and advocating the policies necessary to achieve equity and equality for Black
57. women and girls.
58. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women send a copy of this resolution to the
59. President of the United States, members of Congress, state legislators, and regulatory agencies.

Introduced by: Delegate Angela Angel (MD)

Designating the months of June, July and August 2016 as "Summer Reading Games Months"

COMMITTEE: Education

RESOLUTION: EDU-16-01



1. **WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL
2. Women) recognizes that our nation’s libraries contribute to the intellectual growth of
3. children and teens during the summer through reading programs and that according to
4. the American Library Association, summer reading programs began in the 1890s as a
5. way to encourage school children, particularly those in urban areas who were not needed
6. for farm work, to read during summer vacation, use the library and develop a habit of
7. reading; and
8. **WHEREAS**, NOBEL Women understands that summer reading programs attract
9. children and teens to libraries where they can participate in reading and cultural
10. activities and that children and teens benefit from summer programs that combine
11. elements of youth development principles with academic enrichment; and
12. **WHEREAS**, NOBEL Women recognizes studies done by researchers at Johns Hopkins
13. University in Baltimore show that disadvantaged youth fall significantly behind other
14. students because of a lack of access to reading materials and a loss of encouragement in
15. the home and elsewhere to participate in any reading, and that such a drop-off of reading
16. outside of the school year results in achievement gaps not only in school, but also later in
17. life; and
18. **WHEREAS**, Schools and public librarians throughout the nation have cooperatively
19. produced summer reading lists to enhance both learning and recreation, and library
20. officials in Pennsylvania have worked with their counterparts from all 50 states, the
21. District of Columbia, American Samoa and the Mariana Islands through the
22. Collaborative Summer Library Program (CSLP) to provide high-quality summer reading
23. program materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their public libraries; an
24. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the support of summer reading
25. programs give all library users an opportunity to become lifelong readers and learners
26. provides them with greater success in school and in the job market, while those who have
27. difficulty with reading may have a greater risk of failing in the job field and turning to
28. crime;
29. **BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women designate the months of June, July



30. and August 2017 as "Summer Reading Games Months 2017" in the United States to
31. encourage all children and teens in our nation to participate in all summer library reading
32. programs and to compete in games and other competitions established by the libraries
33. and other groups to increase summer reading; and
34. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, Members of Congress, state legislatures and Governors.

Introduced by: Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown (PA)

Malnutrition and Quality Health Care

COMMITTEE: Health

RESOLUTION: HEA-16-01



1. **WHEREAS**, malnutrition is being recognized as the new senior health crisis, with disease-
2. associated malnutrition in older adults costing the U.S. an estimated \$51.3 billion annually.
3. **WHEREAS**, malnutrition--defined as a lack of the proper amount of essential nutrients-- is
4. common, with one in three hospital patients malnourished on admission and almost one-third
5. of U.S. patients experiencing declines in nutritional status while in the hospital.
6. **WHEREAS**, malnutrition that is undiagnosed and untreated is poor quality health care, with
7. malnutrition leading to increased risk of healthcare-acquired conditions, mortality, length of
8. hospital stay, readmissions, and hospital costs.
9. **WHEREAS**, malnutrition is a potential health disparity, with the Agency for Healthcare
10. Research and Quality documenting that older African Americans have a significantly higher
11. risk of malnutrition (defined as unintentional weight loss) when compared to Caucasians.
12. **WHEREAS**, older adults often have a lower protein intake, thus increasing their risk of
13. losing muscle and lean body mass more quickly which can lead to disability and poor health
14. outcomes.
15. **WHEREAS**, there are practical, cost-effective solutions to malnutrition, such as therapeutic
16. nutrition (use of specific nutrients, disease specific nutrition products, and complete and
17. balanced oral nutrition supplements) which can help restore lean body mass, improve clinical
18. outcomes, reduce health care costs, and keep people and our communities healthy.
19. **WHEREAS**, the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition of over 30 diverse organizations was
20. recently formed to increase recognition of malnutrition as a key indicator and vital sign of
21. older adult health and to achieve substantive regulatory and legislative change.
22. **WHEREAS**, addressing older adult malnutrition requires attention at all levels, from
23. individuals and communities, to healthcare institutions and policymakers, who can together
24. help establish malnutrition care as a measure of quality health care.
25. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women joins Defeat Malnutrition Today
26. and further that NOBEL encourages states to study the issue of older adult malnutrition and
27. identify effective solutions as well as include malnutrition screening and intervention in state
28. healthcare quality initiatives and care models, especially those related to transitions of care,
29. healthcare-acquired conditions, and readmissions.
30. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NOBEL-Women supports increased recognition of
31. defeating malnutrition for healthy aging through emphasizing malnutrition screening and



32. intervention in the Affordable Care Act transitions grants and other relevant grant programs.
33. **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that NOBEL-Women urges the Centers for
34. Medicare and Medicaid Services to adopt specific malnutrition-related quality measures
35. across its programs, including the Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting, Hospital Value
36. Based Purchasing, and Post-Acute Care Quality Programs.

37. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women send a copy of this resolution to the
38. President of the United States, members of Congress, state legislators, and regulatory agencies.

Introduced by : Rep. Laura Hall (AL)

**Supporting Youth Tobacco Prevention Initiatives and Advocating for the Minimum
Legal Age to Purchase Tobacco or Tobacco-derived Products in the United States to be
raised from 18 to 21 years of age**



COMMITTEE: Health

RESOLUTION: HEA-16-02

1. WHEREAS, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women
2. (NOBEL Women) recognizes that according to the United States Centers for Disease
3. Control and Prevention, the following statistics were reported for 2009: 80% of adult
4. smokers began smoking before 18 years of age; 19.5% of high school students and
5. 5.2% of middle school students smoked one or more cigarettes in the previous
6. month; and 8.9% of high school students and 2.6% of middle school students were
7. current smokeless tobacco users; and
8. WHEREAS, NOBEL Women Recognize that additional data from the Centers for
9. Disease Control and Prevention suggest that minors are now obtaining tobacco
10. products from a number of sources other than retail outlets, such as through online
11. purchases; and
12. WHEREAS, NOBEL Women Recognize that although a steady decline in youth
13. tobacco usage has been evident, statistics can be further improved upon through
14. education, deterrent legislative measures and limiting access to tobacco products; and
15. WHEREAS, NOBEL Women unfortunately recognizes that minors are not currently
16. prohibited from purchasing and consuming certain TOBACCO-derived products, such
17. as electronic smoking devices, in a number of states; and
18. WHEREAS, NOBEL Women recognizes that the prevalence of illegal purchases of
19. tobacco and tobacco-derived products by minors necessitates the prohibition of underage
20. possession of all tobacco products; and
21. WHEREAS, NOBEL Women recognizes that it is vitally important that legislators
22. and educators identify creative and effective ways to further influence and educate
23. minors to positively change the behavior and wellness of America's youth; and
24. WHEREAS, NOBEL Women recognizes that it is crucial to include electronic
25. smoking devices in the definition of tobacco-derived products in state statutes and
26. prohibit the purchase and possession by minors; and
27. Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the NOBEL Women organization support and
28. encourage evidence-based youth tobacco prevention education and recognize its
29. importance as a meaningful part of health education regarding the dangers of
30. smoking and nicotine addiction; and
31. Be It Also Resolved, that NOBEL Women undertake the national initiative of



32. increasing the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco or tobacco-derived products
33. from 18 to 21 years of age as well as further address the illegal purchase and sale of
34. tobacco and tobacco-derived products to minors; and
35. Be It Finally Resolved, that NOBEL Women send a copy of this resolution to the
36. President of the United States, Members of Congress, state legislatures and Governors.

Introduced by : Representative Vanessa Lowery Brown (PA)

COMMITTEE: Health

MNG B Education

RESOLUTION: HEA-16-03

1. **WHEREAS**, meningococcal disease is any infection caused by the bacterium *Neisseria*



2. *meningitidis*, or meningococcus. Although 1 in 10 people are carriers for this bacteria
 3. with no signs or symptoms of disease, sometimes *Neisseria meningitidis* bacteria can
 4. cause illness¹⁶; and
 5. **WHEREAS**, meningococcal disease is spread from person to person via the exchange of
 6. the bacteria through respiratory and throat secretion during close or lengthy contact¹⁷; and
 7. **WHEREAS**, in the U.S., there are approximately 1,000 to 1,200 cases of meningococcal
 8. disease that occur each year¹⁸, and
 9. **WHEREAS**, 10 to 15 percent of infected individuals will die, while 11 to 19 percent of
 10. those who live will suffer from serious morbidity, including loss of limbs and impacts to
 11. the nervous system¹⁹, and
 12. **WHEREAS**, infants under one year of age, as well as young adults between the ages of
 13. 16 and 21, are most commonly impacted by this disease²⁰; and
 14. **WHEREAS**, there are different strains or serogroups of *Neisseria meningitides*, with
 15. serogroups B, C, and Y accounting for most meningococcal diseases in the US²¹; and
 16. **WHEREAS**, there have been several recent outbreaks of serogroup B meningococcal
 17. disease on college campuses, with some cases resulting in death;²² and
 18. **WHEREAS**, there are vaccines that help provide protection against all three serogroups
 19. (B, C, and Y) commonly seen in the United States; and
-



20. **WHEREAS**, vaccination for serogroups A, C, W and Y is routinely recommended by the
21. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention²³; and
22. **WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Advisory Committee on
23. Immunization Practices recommends that decisions to vaccinate adolescents and young
24. adults 16 through 23 years of age against serogroup B meningococcal disease should be
25. made at the individual level with health care providers²⁴; and
26. **WHEREAS**, it is critical that students, parents, educators, and health care providers
27. understand the dangers of meningitis B and are aware that a vaccine is available to
28. prevent disease resulting from this serogroup;
29. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the recent incidence of meningococcal disease
30. has served as a reminder of the critical role vaccinations play in helping to prevent this
31. devastating illness; and
32. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women take all reasonable steps to urge
33. all private and public high schools, colleges, and universities in respective states to
34. provide information to all students and parents about meningococcal disease, explaining
35. the different disease serogroups, symptoms, risks, and treatment; and
36. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such information shall also include a notice of
37. availability, benefits, risks, and limitations of all meningococcal vaccines receiving a
38. recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, including
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39. Category A and Category B recommendations, with specific information as to those
40. persons at higher risk for the disease; and
41. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** , that each private and public high school, college, and
42. university shall recommend that current and entering students receive meningococcal
43. vaccines in accordance with current Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
44. guidelines.

Introduced by: Representative Laura Hall (AL)

Biopharmaceutical Innovation

COMMITTEE: Health

RESOLUTION: HEA-16-04



1. **WHEREAS**, biopharmaceutical innovation is a major contributor to improvements in
2. better health and increased life expectancy in the United States; and
3. **WHEREAS**, biopharmaceuticals account for on average only 10% of healthcare
4. expenditures in the U.S. compared with hospital and physician services, which account
5. for more than 50% according to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services; and
6. **WHEREAS**, when a branded biopharmaceutical loses patent protection, it becomes
7. “generic” and the cost of that innovation dramatically declines; and
8. **WHEREAS**, generic medicines account for 90% of prescriptions and continue to add
9. enormous value to society in perpetuity; and
10. **WHEREAS**, no other part of the healthcare sector offers patients the same reduction in
11. cost over time. Today’s expensive hospital admission is tomorrow’s even more expensive
12. hospital admission; and
13. **WHEREAS**, biopharmaceuticals are responsible in reducing overall healthcare costs;
14. and
15. **WHEREAS**, a small percentage of truly sick patients require higher cost
16. biopharmaceuticals for possible cures or for the management of serious illnesses such as
17. cancer; and
18. **WHEREAS**, such patients end up paying a greater percentage of the cost of their
19. medicines than for a visit to an emergency room or a hospitalization; and
20. **WHEREAS**, policy makers are asked to address the high cost of healthcare, insurance
21. premiums and biopharmaceuticals for both society and patients; and
22. **WHEREAS**, cost-containment polices may impede future biopharmaceutical innovation
23. and their continued enhancements to quality of life and longevity; and
24. **WHEREAS**, inefficiencies across the healthcare system account for \$910 billion (34%)
25. of healthcare spending;
26. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the focus should be on expenditures in all parts of
- the
27. healthcare system, not just on biopharmaceuticals; and
28. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, impediments to biopharmaceutical innovation will



29. only result in increasing current and future healthcare expenditures; and
30. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that policy makers should evaluate the societal benefit
31. biopharmaceutical have provided and will provide in future years including
32. improvements in patient life expectancy, quality of life and satisfaction.

Introduced by: Representative Laura Hall (AL)

Consumer Protection Resolution

COMMITTEE: Energy

Resolution: ENE-16-01



1. **WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women)
2. supports the ability of residential and business customers to generate their own electricity
3. through solar panels (i.e., distributed generation) as a key pathway to energy democracy
4. whereby communities can own solar panels and be partners in the nation's electricity
5. infrastructure, and
6. **WHEREAS**, solar success in America is the promotion of innovation and procompetitive
7. behavior in solar markets, and
8. **WHEREAS**, Solar Leasing Disclosure Statements should be streamlined statements
9. designed to help solar customers understand the terms and costs of solar leasing and not
10. intended to be a substitute for reading the contract, lease and other documents associated
11. with a solar transaction.
12. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, in an effort to make going solar as effortless and
13. streamlined as possible, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women
14. (NOBEL Women) recommends members become educated on solar financing options available,
15. contracting terms to be aware of, and other useful tips, and
16. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women will work with the Federal Trade
17. Commission and other appropriate organizations to develop a guide for homeowners that
18. provides insight on solar financing, including leases, loans, and
19. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women believes that the protection of
20. consumers should be a priority for both state and federal governments, and
21. **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women encourages state
22. policymakers to increase their awareness to ensure consumers are protected and
23. accountable for their respective states, and
24. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women work through the local, state and
25. federal agencies to ensure that the solar leasing industry will be closely monitored and
26. appropriately regulated to ensure the protection of our communities.
27. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women send a copy of this resolution to the
28. President of the United States, members of Congress, state legislators, and regulatory agencies.

Introduced by: Senator Catherine Pugh (MD)

**Urging the Federal Communications Commission to Modernize the Lifeline Program to
Address the Homework Gap**



COMMITTEE: Telecommunications (TEL)

RESOLUTION: TEL-16-01

1. **WHEREAS**, the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL
2. Women) supports policies that help to close the digital divide and make it easier for low-
3. income households with school-age children to have access to broadband Internet, and
4. **WHEREAS**, research suggests roughly seven in ten teachers assign homework that
5. requires access to the Internet, and
6. **WHEREAS**, minority and low-income students are at a disadvantage without online
7. access in order to do school work, and
8. **WHEREAS**, Pew Research analysis of the Census data finds that the lowest-income
9. households have the lowest home broadband subscription rates, and
10. **WHEREAS**, according to a 2015 Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau's
11. American Community Survey data, there are 29 million households with school-aged
12. children nationwide and approximately 5 million of those households do not have high-
13. speed internet service at home, and
14. **WHEREAS**, low-income households – and especially black and Hispanic ones – make
15. up a disproportionate share of that 5 million, and
16. **WHEREAS**, roughly one-third (31.4%) of households whose incomes fall below
17. \$50,000 and with children ages 6 to 17 do not have a high-speed internet connection at
18. home, and
19. **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has initiated a rule-
20. making process to extend the Lifeline Program, an initiative that subsidizes telephone
21. subscriptions for low-income households, to allow recipients to apply support the cost of
22. their broadband subscription.
23. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, NOBEL Women urges the FCC to modernize its
24. Lifeline Program to allow participants to support broadband Internet service, and
25. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NOBEL Women urges the FCC to make licensed and
26. unlicensed spectrum more readily available for wireless broadband, which includes Wi-
27. Fi, so that there are more opportunities for students to get their school work done.
28. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
29. President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the



29. United States Senate and House of Representatives, the Chairman and Commissioners of
30. the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal, state, and local government
31. officials, as appropriate.

Introduced By: Representative Mia Jones (FL)

Encouraging the Use of Free Data Programs

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications (TEL)

RESOLUTION: TEL-16-02



1. **WHEREAS**, access to broadband has opened the door to increased opportunities in
2. education, health, employment, and entrepreneurship; and
3. **WHEREAS**, the African American and Latino communities are smart-phone dependent
4. with a significant number of their members using smart phones as sole or primary sources
5. of broadband access;
6. **WHEREAS**, according to an April 2015 study from the Pew Internet Research Center,
7. 48% of smart-phone dependent Americans have closed their smart-phone services as the
8. result of a financial hardship resulting in a lack of broadband access to vital services such
9. as healthcare, educational and job opportunities, and communications; and
10. **WHEREAS**, free data plans, also known as sponsored data or zero rating, enable
11. consumers to access certain content without it being counted against their allotted data; and
12. **WHEREAS**, free data effectively works to reduce financial hardships of low income
13. consumers by reducing the cost of access to certain content thereby staying digitally
14. connected to healthcare, educational and job opportunities and communications; and
15. **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Organization of Black Elected Legislative
16. (NOBEL) Women encourages the Federal Communications Commission to support free
17. data programs as a cost effective policy for keeping low income consumers connected to
18. the internet.
19. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NOBEL Women encourages the Federal
20. Communications Commission in cases where claims of net neutrality are made find that
21. as a method of low cost access, free data serves to bring more consumers online and
22. ensure that increased market demand for broadband access is met.
23. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
24. President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the
25. United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, the Chairman and
26. Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal, state and
27. local government officials as appropriate.

Introduced By: Representative Mia Jones (FL)

**Encouraging the Support of Infrastructure Buildout to Pave the Way for Next
Generation Networks**



COMMITTEE: Telecommunications (TEL)

RESOLUTION: TEL-16-03

1. **WHEREAS**, mobile broadband access is critical in creating economically sustainable
2. communities of color; and
3. **WHEREAS**, in particular, the African American community leads the nation in wireless
4. broadband adoption – 12% of African Americans are smartphone-dependent, compared
5. with 4% of Whites according to the April 2015 Pew Research Center Report, U.S.
6. Smartphone Use in 2015; and
7. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. leads the world in 4G LTE services – of which 99.6 percent of
8. Americans have access to – providing broad coverage and wireless connectivity that
9. offers unmatched consumer benefits in areas such as education and health; and
10. **WHEREAS**, building on the value of wireless to consumers, the next generation of
11. mobile connectivity will increase network reliability, reduce latency (delays in data
12. communications), provide consumers and businesses with higher speeds, and be capable
13. of serving a greater number of wireless devices than current technology; and
14. **WHEREAS**, to ensure the success of next generation technology and the United States’
15. leadership in this next generation of wireless, wireless carriers will have to deploy small
16. antenna infrastructure connected via wireline fiber facilities; and
17. **WHEREAS**, next generation signals cover shorter distances thus requiring several times
18. as many smaller cells than traditional cell towers and that next generation networks work
19. only if deployed intensively; and
20. **WHEREAS**, in order for next generation networks to have maximum impact for
21. consumers, wireless carriers, state and local governments - especially in densely
22. populated urban areas – must work together to encourage deployment of this technology.
23. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Organization of Black Elected
24. Legislative Women (NOBEL Women) affirms that local governments should balance the
25. deployment of new generation wireless technology with local governments’ role in
26. managing rights-of-way, maintaining safe communities, and promoting economic
27. development; and
28. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments should modernize its permitting
29. processes to enable the rapid deployment of small antenna infrastructure to support next



30. generation networks; and
31. **BE IT ADDITIONALLY RESOLVED** that NOBEL Women urges local governments to work collaboratively with businesses to bring next generation networks to their cities.
32. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
33. President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the
34. United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, the Chairman and
35. Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal, state and
36. local government officials as appropriate.

Introduced By: Representative Mia Jones (FL)

Encouraging Consumer Privacy Protections Across All Platforms

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications (TEL)

RESOLUTION: TEL-16-04



1. **WHEREAS**, the emerging knowledge economy increases economic opportunity for
2. communities of color while improving the level of convenience for accessing and
3. purchasing goods and services online; and
4. **WHEREAS**, a disproportionate number of African American and Latino consumers
5. access the Internet via mobile devices; and
6. **WHEREAS**, the use of profiling capabilities may contribute to discriminatory practices
7. against African Americans; and
8. **WHEREAS**, big data, the accumulation of high-volume, high-velocity information
9. assets, can be used by governments and corporations to gather insights into and data on
10. certain consumer groups; and
11. **WHEREAS**, the emergence of new online platforms and the technological capacity of
12. these platforms have increased access to consumers' private data; and
13. **WHEREAS**, among these new and emerging platforms are non-Internet service provider
14. platforms such as smartphone operating systems, web browsers, search engines, and
15. social networks all utilized by African American and Latino consumers; and
16. **WHEREAS**, disparate privacy obligations imposed on only one segment of the Internet
17. ecosystem will harm competition and confuse consumers;
18. **WHEREAS**, in contrast to many other Internet ecosystem players, such as operating
19. systems, search engines, social networks and data brokers that may have little or no
20. contact with the individuals from whom they collect data, Internet service providers have
21. a built-in incentive to safeguard the privacy of their subscribers due to their ongoing
22. business relationship with their customers;
23. **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that to promote fair competition, avoid consumer
24. confusion, and encourage investment, innovation and beneficial uses of big data, the
25. National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL Women) calls on
26. Congress to take the necessary steps to ensure that flexible privacy standards grounded in
27. the appropriate fair information practice principles apply equally to all entities and all
28. platforms across the Internet ecosystem; and
29. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Federal Communications Commission should
30. refrain from adopting prescriptive rules regarding the use, disclosure, and security of



31. consumers' personal information for Internet service providers that are not consistent
32. with, or more onerous than, those that apply to the rest of the Internet ecosystem, as
33. enforced by the Federal Trade Commission, as any such disparities in privacy standards
34. would serve only to confuse consumers.

35. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
36. President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the
37. United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, the Chairman and
38. Commissioners of the Federal Communications Commission, and other federal, state and
39. local government officials as appropriate.

Introduced by: Rep. Mia Jones (FL)