

Oct. 27, 2020 SCC Meeting

Proposed Resolutions

1. Resolution: Opposing Military Intervention in and Economic Sanctions on Venezuela

WHEREAS United States foreign policy has contributed in the past to the overthrow of governments in Latin America;

and WHEREAS the Trump Administration along with other Republican and some Democratic leaders have called for the ouster of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro – whose government is recognized by United Nations – and have abetted Venezuelan military officers seeking to overthrow their government, have threatened to use U.S. troops to invade the country, and have violated the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations by failing to secure Venezuelan consulates from hostile takeover -- actions that are made more troubling coming from a president who openly admits that control of oil is a main driver for his policies, and is desperate to distract from multiple ongoing investigations;

and WHEREAS the actual effect of the Trump administration's sanctions, placed in violation of the UN and OAS charters, has been the opposite of their proclaimed purpose – they have increased the suffering of the Venezuelan people by cutting off the availability of basic necessities and critical medications while wreaking havoc on Venezuela's economy, thereby further polarizing the Venezuelan people, and exacerbating civil conflict;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party opposes any attempts by the Trump Administration to overthrow the government of Venezuela directly or indirectly by arming other forces, internal or external, that aim to take power undemocratically and in violation of international law, calls for the easing of economic sanctions, affirms the right of the Venezuelan government to safely operate and control its own embassy in Washington, D.C., opposes infliction upon the Venezuelan people of more suffering that overt or covert war and sanctions surely bring;

and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on our Democratic leaders to support multilateral diplomatic efforts to promote negotiations between the Venezuelan government and the various opposition groups to resolve the Venezuelan crisis peacefully and democratically.

Sponsor/Submitted by: National Democratic Party

2. Resolution: Support of Nuclear Arms Control

WHEREAS the U.S. has announced that it is walking away from 1 the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, an agreement made between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in 1987 to eliminate nuclear weapons deployed in Europe that put the continent on a trip-wire to nuclear war; and the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START), which limits the number of US and Russian strategic nuclear weapons, is set to expire soon, with no renewal in sight;

and WHEREAS the U.S. has also withdrawn from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) agreement that prevents Iran from building or acquiring nuclear weapons;

and WHEREAS the threat of nuclear war is the most acute it has been in decades because of the world's 15,000 or so nuclear weapons that have the risk of literally ending the world according to International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Chief Beatrice Fihn of Sweden;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party urges the Nebraska Congressional delegation to vigorously advocate U.S. adherence to the INF Treaty and reject the funding of nuclear weapons systems which the INF Treaty bans; support U.S. diplomacy to negotiate continuation of the INF Treaty, renew START, and honor the JCPOA agreement; and advocate negotiations to eliminate all nations' nuclear weapons, in keeping with the Nuclear NonProliferation Treaty passed by the U.N. in 2017;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted officially to all members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation.

Sponsor/Submitted by: National Democratic Party

3. Resolution: Auditing of the Pentagon Budget

WHEREAS the Pentagon Budget represents more than half of the discretionary spending in the national budget of the United States;

and WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States of America (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11) specifically grants to Congress the authority to declare war, making the AUMF a fundamental violation of division of power among the branches of the government codified in the Constitution;

and WHEREAS the military's wasted and misdirected funds would be far better used to assist conversion from a military and fossil-fuel based economy to a sustainable

economy that meets such civilian needs as health care, education, housing, mass transportation, renewable energy, and ending poverty;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party urges the Congressional Delegation from Nebraska to support on-going auditing of the Pentagon budget and to vote against any Defense Appropriations legislation in 2019 and 2020 that does not directly address Pentagon waste;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted officially to all members of Nebraska's Congressional delegation.

Sponsor/Submitted by: National Democratic Party

4. Repeal of the AUMF Resolution

HEREAS the Congress of the United States passed the AUMF (Authorization of Use of Military Force) in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks – with Congresswoman Barbara Lee casting the lone dissenting vote – granting the President of the United States sole discretionary power, without specific Congressional authorization, to direct the U.S. military to undertake offensive operations;

and WHEREAS the Constitution of the United States of America (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 11) specifically grants to Congress the authority to declare war, making the AUMF a fundamental violation of division of power among the branches of the government codified in the Constitution;

and WHEREAS since the passage of the AUMF, the United States, under three Presidents, has engaged in military action in at least 14 different countries without Congressional approval;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party urges the Congressional Delegation from Nebraska to support the repeal of the AUMF;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted officially to all members of Nebraska's Congressional delegation.

Sponsor/Submitted by: National Democratic Party

5. Resolution: Diversity/Cultural Sensitivity Training and Practices

WHEREAS, the Nebraska Democratic Party is constantly changing and evolving toward a more culturally diverse coalition of activists and change-makers, and that the Nebraska Democratic Party has a strong foundation of various cultures and ethnic backgrounds making up our assemblage and organization;

WHEREAS, to make the biggest possible impact, the Nebraska Democratic Party needs to adapt to this truth. In order to become a truly inclusive organization, diversity training will help the Nebraska Democratic Party to develop the necessary awareness and knowledge of said cultures. This will result in the party's ability to thrive with an ever-changing base of voters;

WHEREAS, despite today's growing diversity and open mindedness, many Nebraska Democratic Party decisions are still the result of unconscious biases -- often without the decision-maker even realizing it, and these unconscious biases can make Nebraska Democratic Party members feel left out -- both from social groups in the organization and from professional opportunities for growth and advancement;

WHEREAS having a diverse and engaged community of members means having access to an organization with a wide range of perspectives to tackle challenges, and each person brings their own experiences and way of thinking to the organization;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Nebraska Democratic Party, to grow and to develop as a proactive body for future Democrats of Nebraska, to include, to adopt, to implement, and to encourage ongoing formalized diversity/cultural sensitivity training and practices for the organization, its subordinates and its affiliates; and the Nebraska Democratic Party State Executive Committee shall participate annually and the Nebraska Democratic Party State Central Committee shall participate bi-annually.

Sponsor/Submitted by: Kimara Z. Snipe