

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXPANDED EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Whereas, 44% of North Carolina children live in poverty as reported by NC Child Profile and North Carolina is ranked 33 out of 50 states in terms of the availability of 1) high-quality Early Childhood Education; 2) pre-natal to age 8 health care; 3) and family economic security; and

Whereas, research shows children of poverty are more vulnerable to toxic stress from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) which impede brain development and long-term educational progress,

Be it therefore resolved, that the New Hanover County Democratic Party strongly support *increased and equitable funding* for public Early Childhood Education that includes an adequate number of slots for children in public pre-kindergarten programs; increased classroom space for pre-kindergarten programs within public schools; improved compensation for pre-K teachers; the inclusion of mental health intervention programs for at-risk children, and funding for transportation to such programs; and

Be it further resolved, that the NC Democratic Party strongly support the recent re-establishment of *the Caucus for Early Childhood* in the North Carolina General Assembly, whose purpose is to address the factors impeding access for poor children to medical care; and

Be it further resolved that the NC Democratic Party work to increase access for children from marginalized communities to quality early learning experiences; improve economic security for poor families; and reinvest state funding in Early Childhood educational experiences as a public good.

Adopted by NHC Precinct M03 on March 13, 2021
George Vlasits, Chair

RESOLUTION ON ENDING THE CASH BAIL SYSTEM

Whereas, the arcane system of cash bail is discriminatory in that it keeps poor defendants, who have not been tried or convicted, in jail until their case is resolved (which is often several months or even years), while wealthy individuals are able to post bail and go home; and

Whereas, the cash bail system deepens economic and racial inequality in that pretrial detention which results in individuals losing their jobs, not being able to take care of their children, and losing contact with loved ones; and

Whereas, cash bail drains money and resources out of marginalized communities; and

Whereas, being held pretrial makes both conviction and incarceration more likely, as defendants held pretrial are pressured to plead guilty with the hopes of returning home; and

Whereas, many of the people held pretrial confinement are not a threat to the public, since most pretrial detainees have been charged with misdemeanors or minor felonies such as possession of drugs and property or public order crimes; and

Whereas, the cash bail system costs taxpayers since the US spends 38 million dollars a day to detain people pretrial, costs which could be redirected into education, housing, and economic development which would benefit marginalized communities; and

Whereas, the US is one of only two countries, the other being the Philippines, to use cash bail;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the NC Democratic Party support legislation to end the use of cash bail and to provide the services necessary for defendants to show up for their trials; and

Be it Further Resolved, that the NHC Democratic Party support efforts during the pandemic to release as many defendants currently being held in the County Detention Center as possible.

Adopted by NHC Precinct M03 on March 13, 2021

George Vlasits, Chair

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING OUR TEACHERS AS PUBLIC SERVANTS AND HEROES

Whereas, our public-school teachers have continued to perform their duties under the extreme adverse conditions of the pandemic; and

Whereas, North Carolina teachers' salaries are well below the national average, and our teachers have received little or no raises in the past few years; and

Whereas, using tax money for private schools undermines our already underfunded public schools,

Be it therefore resolved, that the New Hanover Democratic Party supports the right of teachers and all public sector workers to organize and bargain for better pay, benefits and safety protections; and

Be it further resolved, that the NC and NHC Democratic Parties will work to raise teacher pay in North Carolina to the national average or above; and

Be it further resolved, that the NC and NHC Democratic Parties will oppose any expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship Program or any other use of tax payer monies for private schools; and

Be it further resolved, that the NC and NHC Democratic Parties will fight to prioritize the use of pandemic relief funds and NC state rainy day funds to compensate teachers and other school staff for their continuing efforts to provide the best possible education for our children during the pandemic.

Adopted by NHC Precinct M03 on March 13, 2021
George Vlasits, Chair