

RESOLUTION ON THE VALUE OF ORGANIZED LABOR AND THE NEED TO CHAMPION THE RIGHTS OF WORKING AMERICANS

Whereas, prior to the 1970s, a strong US labor movement contributed significantly to growth of a US economy that provided opportunity for working Americans to improve their lives and those of their children; and

Whereas, organized labor was instrumental in outlawing the shameful practice of child labor; and

Whereas, by 1937 organized labor actions created enough political momentum to pass the Fair Standards Labor Act which established the 8-hour work day, the 40-hour work week, and a federal minimum wage; and

Whereas, the labor movement was instrumental in the passage other New Deal legislation, such as Social Security and Unemployment Insurance; and

Whereas, from the 1940's through the 1960's, when unions represented the highest percentage of American workers in history, income inequality was at its lowest point in the history of the country, and as union membership has declined since, so has the working class share of national income; and

Whereas, the labor movement provided strong support for the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts; and

Whereas, US labor unions involvement led to the first great expansion of health care for workers, and labor unions spearheaded the fight for the Family and Medical Leave Act, Medicare, and Medicaid; and

Whereas, the labor movement was a major force behind the Equal Pay Acts of 1963 & 2011 and the Americans With Disabilities Act and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; and

Whereas, US labor unions have fought for safety regulations and their enforcement including the Occupational Safety & Health ACT (OSHA), which has drastically reduced injuries and deaths on the job; and

Whereas, US labor unions have led the fight to give American workers paid vacations, paid holidays and paid sick leave; and

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Whereas, organized labor has always been a powerful supporter of and contributor to the US system of public education as providing a ladder for working Americans to improve their lives;

Therefore, be it resolved that the New Hanover County Democratic Party, the North Carolina Democratic Party and the US Democratic Party will champion the rights of working people, and fight to stop the war on US labor unions; and

Be it further resolved, that the Democratic Party at all levels will work to enact and enforce legislation that protects workers and which furthers the cause of right to organize and bargain collectively.

Adopted by Precinct MOB on
March 2, 2023.

John Hanna
Luise Tassan
Chair MOB