

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A 21ST CENTURY ECONOMIC BILL OF RIGHTS

Submitted by: Jim Langford/Orange, Millie Herrera/Miami-Dade
Recommended by: Florida Democratic Party Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS, in his 1944 State of the Union Address, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called for a “Second Bill of Rights,” declaring that “true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence” and affirming that “necessitous men are not free men”; and

WHEREAS, President Roosevelt envisioned a new foundation of security and prosperity that would guarantee economic dignity and opportunity for all Americans regardless of station, race, or creed; and

WHEREAS, more than eighty years later, millions of Americans face rising costs of housing, healthcare, education, and basic necessities while wealth and economic power become increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has long championed the economic security of working people, from President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal to the modern Democratic Party Platform’s commitment to expanding opportunity, strengthening workers’ rights, lowering costs for families, and building a fair economy that works for everyone, which reflects the values of our Party; and

WHEREAS, recent economic policies, including the passage of H.R.1, the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”, threaten to deepen economic inequality while weakening the social safety net relied upon by millions of working families; and

WHEREAS, advancing a bold economic vision rooted in fairness, dignity, and shared prosperity is essential to strengthening American democracy and restoring trust in our institutions; and

WHEREAS, Democratic Parties across the country, including the Massachusetts, California, West Virginia, and Arizona Democratic Parties, Democrats Abroad, the Democratic National Committee, and numerous local Democratic committees have adopted resolutions supporting a modern Economic Bill of Rights; and

WHEREAS, Florida's combination of "Right-to-Work" laws and at-will employment has created an environment in which workers often face weakened collective bargaining rights and may be terminated without cause, underscoring the need for stronger workplace protections, fair wages, and the freedom to organize without fear of retaliation; and

WHEREAS, Florida's status as a "Right-to-Work" state has, for decades, limited the ability of workers to build collective power by allowing employees to receive the benefits of union representation without contributing to its costs, contributing to lower wages, weaker workplace protections, and reduced bargaining power for working families;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florida Democratic Party reaffirms its commitment to building an economy that works for everyone and recognizes the importance of advancing a 21st Century Economic Bill of Rights grounded in the principles articulated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Florida Democratic Party supports the following fundamental economic rights for all people in the United States:

- The right to a job that pays a living wage;
- The right to a voice and protections in the workplace through a union and collective bargaining, and other forms of workplace democracy;
- The right to start and own farms and businesses in rural communities that are not subject to market or supply chain control, unfair price competition, or other forms of unfair corporate coercion;
- The right to comprehensive quality health care including prescription medicines, vision, dental, mental health, and long term health care fully funded for all;
- The right to a complete cost-free quality public education;
- The right to access cost-free high speed reliable and regulated broadband internet;
- The right to decent, safe, affordable housing;
- The right to a clean environment and a healthy planet;
- The right to food security, a childhood free of poverty, and a secure retirement;
- The right to affordable, high-quality childcare and early childhood education;
- The right to sound banking and financial services;
- The right to have public control and regulation over information and data infrastructure;
- The right to an equitable and economically fair justice system; and
- The right to an equal voice in our democracy by limiting the undue influence of corporate contributions.