

**National Federation of Democratic Women
Resolution on Education in Support of Our Teachers**

WHEREAS, Democrats believe that a quality public education is a basic, universal American right for all students and is one of the cornerstones of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, Democrats advocate for a quality public education for all students without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, gender identification, disability, or zip code where they live; and

WHEREAS, teachers are a vital component to our children's education, yet teachers are an underpaid and undervalued profession. New teachers, on average, make about \$36,000 per year and all teachers have an average salary of about \$58,000. These salaries represent about 60% of what comparably educated professionals earn; and

WHEREAS, many high quality graduates do not even consider teaching as a possible profession following graduation citing low teacher pay, poor working conditions, and limited career advancement as deterrents; and

WHEREAS, there is an increasing lack of diversity among teachers in our schools. Although students of color comprise almost 50% of the nation's public school population, teachers of color make up less than 20% of the nation's teachers. Studies show that all students tend to benefit when they are taught by a diverse group of teachers; and

WHEREAS, teachers in states such as West Virginia, Oklahoma, Kentucky, and Arizona have led walk-outs, strikes, and marches to fight against low teacher pay, cuts in education spending, and proposed changes in their pension plans;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NFDW will support candidates and lawmakers on the local and national levels who advocate for and provide full funding for programs and initiatives that change how teachers are paid, encourage the creation of teacher residency programs and new teacher inductions, increase and promote teacher diversity, and devise curriculum beginning in high school to educate students about learning and teaching.