

**National Federation of Democratic Women  
Resolution on the National Democratic Redistricting Committee**

**WHEREAS**, the act of gerrymandering that gives one political party an advantage in voting strength over another political party has occurred in the United States since before the U.S. Constitution had gone into effect. In 1788, former Virginia Governor Patrick Henry asked the state legislature to change the district lines of Congressional District 5 to prevent James Madison from getting elected to Congress. In the Election of 1800, the Federalists created districts to help defeat the Democratic-Republican candidates. To keep his party in power in 1812, Eldridge Gerry, Governor of Massachusetts, created a district that many thought looked like a salamander, and the name Gerrymander was created; and

**WHEREAS**, gerrymandering continues to thwart the will of the voters even today. The National Democratic Redistricting Committee, a newly formed group being led by former President Barack Obama and former Attorney General Eric Holder, has as its mission to untangle the creatively drawn districts that have helped cement the Republican Party in power in Washington and in many state capitals; and

**WHEREAS**, the efforts of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee are focused on challenging, in court, the Republican drawn maps seen as violating the law; and on the campaign trail, the Committee seeks to win offices that influence redistricting and prevail in ballot referendums in states that allow voters to give direct approval to laws mandating new procedures for legislative apportionment.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Federation of Democratic Women supports the National Democratic Redistricting Committee as this organization works to undo the damage created by Republican-led redistricting.

Submitted by the NFDW Legislative Committee on April 30, 2018

Adopted by the NFDW Membership at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention on June 16, 2018