

**National Federation of Democratic Women  
Resolution on Pregnant Women and the Opioid Crisis**

**WHEREAS**, the opioid crisis is one of our country's most horrific health epidemics with 130 persons dying daily, and in 2017 more than 47,000 Americans died resulting from an opioid overdose, including prescription opioids, heroin and illicitly manufactured Fentanyl. That same year an estimated 1.7 million people in the United States suffered from substance use disorders related to prescription opioid pain relievers and 652,000 suffered from a heroin use disorder; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2016, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services convened their first formal meeting on opioid use disorders and overdose among women, and now healthcare professionals are keenly aware that women are impacted at a faster rate than men, with the crisis affecting women across all age, racial, ethnic, geographic and socio-economic status levels; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has reported the number of pregnant women with opioid use disorder (OUD) during labor and child delivery more than quadrupled from 1999 to 2014. The CDC's recommendations include appropriate opioid prescribing; maximizing and enhancing prescription drug monitoring programs; implementing universal substance use screening at the first prenatal visit as recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; ensuring mothers with OUD have access to medication-assisted therapy and related additional services; and ensuring mothers with OUD receive adequate patient-centered post partum care, including mental health and substance use treatment, relapse-prevention programs and family planning services.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) supports all efforts to prevent substance abuse, including the CDC's recommendations to provide more monitoring, intervention and treatment for pregnant women. NFDW will prioritize educating all citizens about the dangers of substance misuse.