



National Federation of Democratic Women Resolution #6

Saluting Essential Workers

WHEREAS, Essential Workers have kept our country functioning during this COVID-19 pandemic. They have been there looking out for the rest of us, keeping us supplied with food, medical supplies and cleaning products. They are operating trains, buses and subways, policing our communities and providing emergency services while putting their own lives at risk every day. We recognized doctors and nurses; CNAs; respiratory, PT, and OT therapists; and a constellation of hospital workers as our families and friends have been transported to emergency rooms by first responders, who are the front line in our scariest times. Then we came to realize that those invisible, low-wage workers are heroes too: farmers, truckers, teachers, childcare workers, restaurant employees, grocery clerks and stock people and millions more deserve thanks for their sacrifices; and

WHEREAS, Essential Workers have cleaned the hospitals and carried out the most dangerous custodial services in every venue, operated transportation systems, cooked food, and delivered whatever was needed while trying to protect their own health. Some workers have said it is like they are working in a “War Zone”; and

WHEREAS, grocery store workers, who usually earn poverty level wages, have been hit very hard during this pandemic. One worker was sent home from a large retailer because he had flu-like symptoms, and he was dead two days later. Citizens are told to limit their trips to the grocery store, but the workers must go there every day.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women commends our Essential Workers and thank them for their dedicated service to our country, and we are calling on Congress to provide oversight that can ensure that these valued, self-sacrificing workers are being provided the best possible working conditions and protections as well as further monetary support provided by federal legislation.

Submitted by the Resolutions Committee and the Legislative Committee

Adopted by the NFDW Members at the 49th National Convention on June 13, 2020