

**National Federation of Democratic Women
Resolution on Public Education**

WHEREAS, The National Federation of Democratic Women firmly believes that public education is a key to a lifetime of success and an opportunity to reduce economic inequality, eradicate poverty; and

WHEREAS, our public education system should provide equal access to high quality programs in a safe and nurturing educational environment in order to prepare our students from early childhood through secondary and higher education so that they are prepared for a productive and successful adult life; and

WHEREAS, recently proposed legislation advocates the use of public and federal funds to pay for education vouchers as a means of providing school choice and the repeal of the Elementary and Secondary School Education Act, which limits the authority of the Secretary of Education in dispersing these funds; and

WHEREAS, several studies indicate that the voucher/school choice plan would not resolve the education gap nor address income equality and socio-economic diversity and success. In addition, research has shown that public resources could be better utilized, concluding that private or religious education institutions do not save the taxpayers money and may not be accountable for how those funds are spent, nor be accountable for student progress.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The National Federation of Democratic Women opposes all legislation which promotes the use of vouchers as a means of achieving the goal of educational equality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NFDW advocates that public funds should be used to increase equity, excellence and opportunities for all students through grade 12, support teachers and local school leadership as they provide early childhood education, enhancement and increased family and community involvement, STEM/STEAM education, and extra-curricular programs that help to prepare all students to succeed in our global economy.

Submitted by the NFDW Legislative Committee May 2017

Adopted by the NFDW Members at the 46th Convention June 10, 2017