

**National Federation of Democratic Women
Resolution in Support of Legislation to Combat Addiction
to Prescription and Illicit Drugs**

WHEREAS, current policies and laws, based on moral judgment are ineffective as evidenced by the failed “War on Drugs,” and according to Stanford University studies, the United States, while focusing efforts to criminalize drug usage, has spent billions of dollars trying to eradicate the availability of illicit drugs in America; and

WHEREAS, the abuse of opioids is rising faster than any other drug usage and more deaths occur by overdose of opioids, resulting in 61% of drug deaths from opioids. Deaths from heroin have more than tripled since 2010, and in 2016 more than 50,000 people died from heroin--that is 125 people per day dying from a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, Stanford University studies show that medical and mental health treatment instead of law enforcement and judicial incarceration are the more effective ways to decrease drug abuse and further reveal that effective drug policies and laws should treat drug addiction as a chronic disease.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Federation of Democratic Women shall advocate for effective legislation to adequately fund a method to increase medical treatment facilities and programs for prescriptive and illegal drug abuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the NFDW shall advocate for effective legislation to stem the tide of illegal drugs coming into the country and to reduce the abuse of writing and distributing prescription drugs.