

**National Federation of Democratic Women
Resolution Opposing Unscrupulous Drug Industry Practices**

WHEREAS, Americans pay the highest prices in the world for pharmaceutical drugs, and one report indicates that U.S. prices for the top twenty most frequently sold drugs are three times higher than in Britain. In many cases U.S. drug prices can be traced to questionable business practices within the prescription drugs industry; and

WHEREAS, a recent study showed that insulin users in North America make up 14% of all insulin users worldwide, but they account for nearly 50% of total worldwide sales. When Humalog was introduced in 1996, it sold for \$21 a vial, but the current list price is \$452 per vial. The drug manufacturers admit that the cost of making insulin has not changed, but an average year supply of thirty-six vials has increased from \$740 to \$13,500; and

WHEREAS, drug companies patent their medicines to protect the company from competition, and when a patent is approaching expiration, the company makes small changes that lead to the patent renewing for an extended period. Of the current 100 major drugs on the market, 50% have extended their patents multiple times; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National Federation of Democratic Women (NFDW) supports fair business practices that can help bring down the high cost of prescription drugs. Likewise, NFDW opposes those unscrupulous practices that allow the pharmaceutical drug companies to continue to exploit with high prices the demand for their products.