

The two Resolutions adopted by the 2010 Winter Meeting of the DPCA: Florence, Italy, March 6

Resolution Supporting Equal Rights For Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual And Transgender (LGBT) Individuals

Proposed by Democrats Abroad Germany (Shari Temple). Adopted March 6, 2010 as amended by friendly resolution.

Co-sponsors: DA Austria, Australia, DA Guatemala, DA Israel, DA Italy, DA Japan, DA Mexico, DA Netherlands, DA Singapore, DA Switzerland, Amanda Klekowski von Koppenfels – DA International Secretary, Bob Bragar – DA Resolutions Committee Co-Chair, Caitlin Kraft Buchman – DNC Representative, Carmelan Polce – DA Regional Vice Chair – Asia-Pacific, Joe Smallhoover – DNC Representative, John Chudy – DA Regional Vice Chair – Americas, Lauren Shannon – DNC Representative, Robbie Checkoway – DA International Vice Chair, Susan Haug – DA Regional Vice Chair – EMEA

WHEREAS, All Americans - including lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) citizens and residents – are constitutionally entitled to equal protection under the law;

The US military policy of "Don't Ask Don't Tell" violates the civil rights of highly trained LGBT men and women who serve in the US Armed Forces and casts qualified people out of the military. The Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1283) would repeal this discriminatory policy;

Federal law already prohibits discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender and disability. LGBT citizens and residents are subjected to widespread workplace discrimination in hiring, retention, equal pay and promotion, with no Federal laws protecting them.

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), H.R. 2981 and 3017 would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity by private sector employers and local, State and Federal governments. ENDA would also provide a comprehensive Federal prohibition of employment discrimination against LGBT citizens and residents, including meaningful and effective remedies for any such discrimination;

Several States recognize same-sex marriages and grant to these couples all respective State rights and responsibilities intrinsic to the institution of marriage. Couples who are legally married under the laws of one State, whether heterosexual or homosexual, are entitled to have those marriages recognized by the Federal government and by every other State, as stipulated in the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the Constitution.

Congress is to be commended for passing the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which expanded existing United States federal hate crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

The so-called Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) has had the pernicious effect of creating two classes of citizens: heterosexual couples, who are granted all the rights and benefits marriage offers, and same-sex couples, whose rights and benefits with

respect to taxation, health care, inheritance, immigration, etc are not recognized by either the Federal government or by most States;

President Obama has boldly spoken of the need to enhance the rights of America's LGBT citizens and residents and has already taken many laudable steps at achieving this goal in the first year of his Administration;

President Obama is to be commended for declaring his intention to pass ENDA and to repeal "Don't Ask Don't Tell" and the Defense of Marriage Act.

Congress is to be commended for passing the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which expanded existing United States Federal hate crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim's actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad Supports President Obama for his stand on LGBT issues,

Urges Congress to act swiftly to pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA, H.R. 2981, H.R. 3017) and the Military Readiness Enhancement Act (H.R. 1283), and to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA); and

Reaffirms the Democrats Abroad Resolution adopted by the DPCA in Washington, D.C. on 4 March 2006 supporting the Uniting American Families Act.

Resolution Opposing the Treatment of Corporations as Persons in Federal Campaigns

Proposed by Christine Schon Marques, Joseph Smallhoover, Bob Bragar, Anthony Sistilli, Sandra Loidans. Passed March 6, 2012, as proposed.

WHEREAS, the Supreme Court under Chief Justice Roberts, in its 5-4 decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, held that corporations could influence federal election campaigns as though they were natural persons; and

WHEREAS, the treatment of corporations as persons, for the purposes of electioneering communications or advocating the election or defeat of a federal candidate, runs contrary to the most basic interest of the individual voter; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has pledged to work with Congressional leadership to ensure that neither the voices of special interests nor lobbyists are louder than those of the American voter;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Democrats Abroad

Requests that our Democratic State Party colleagues work with their State legislatures to reverse the impact of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission; and

Calls for legislation, including a constitutional amendment if necessary, to ensure, at the least, full disclosure of the sources of corporate funds in Federal election campaigns and shareholder approval of such funding, and to prohibit foreign "persons", whether natural, sovereign or corporate, from engaging in such votes or providing such funds.

Relevant Excerpt of the Minutes from the Winter 2010 Meeting

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Resolutions Committee Co-Chair Bob Bragar noted that two resolutions are being presented, both of which the Resolutions Committee recommends be adopted.

Resolution Supporting Equal Rights For Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual And Transgender (LGBT) Individuals

Friendly amendment from DA Australia, inserting the following text after the current fifth paragraph:

“Congress is to be commended for passing the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which expanded existing United States federal hate crime law to include crimes motivated by a victim’s actual or perceived gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.”

Shari Temple, sponsor of resolution, accepted the friendly amendment.

*Motion to adopt amended resolution was made, duly seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.*

Resolution Opposing the Treatment of Corporations as Persons in Federal Campaigns

*Motion made to adopt resolution, duly seconded. Ayes, one nay.
Motion carried.*