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2021 DPCA Annual Global Meeting (May 14-16) Resolutions Deferred or Withdrawn

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4

5 #3

6 **In Support of Development of a DA messaging platform**
7 **for engaging members in Congressional outreach**
8 **in support of DA issues-advocacy initiatives**
9

10 *Proposed by: Carmelan Polce (DA Australia, DPCA Voting Rep; DA Taxation Task Force Chair)*
11 *Co-sponsors: listed below*
12

13 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad has greatly expanded its advocacy work promoting reforms
14 related to issues affecting Americans abroad and of importance to Democrats Abroad;
15 and

16
17 **Whereas** DA advocacy initiatives routinely feature outreach to U.S. federal and state
18 lawmakers and regulators; and

19
20 **Whereas** state of the art issues-advocacy programs provide activists with platforms that
21 facilitate messaging to elected representatives by: identifying the activist’s
22 representative(s); providing sample message language; and sending the message to the
23 activist’s representatives(s) via their official website, campaign website, or social media
24 pages; and

25
26 **Whereas** DA issues-advocacy coordinators would benefit from data indicating which
27 elected representatives are receiving messages from DA issues-activists, helping them to
28 target representatives for further or follow-up outreach; and

29
30 **Whereas** DA issues-advocacy coordinators would benefit from data, with GDPR
31 compliance, identifying campaign supporters, helping them to target activists for further
32 or follow-up communication; and

33
34 **Whereas** DA’s Taxation Task Force has learned from at least 10 years of committed
35 advocacy in support of tax reforms to eliminate double taxation; remove barriers to
36 banking, saving, and investing; and simplify filing from abroad; that reform will happen
37 when enough Americans abroad reach out to their elected representatives and demand it;
38 and

39
40 **Whereas** **votes** from abroad reach politicians for the most part only once every 2 years,
41 but **voices** from abroad can reach elected representatives – or candidates for office –
42 continuously and with focus; and

43
44 **Whereas** DA is blessed with volunteers who can set up and maintain a messaging
45 platform, but there will be origination and on-going maintenance costs that will consume
46 organizational funds; and

47
48 **Whereas** DA can access “white label” systems (“off the shelf” web-creation products
49 with functions already in place and ready to be customized) that would facilitate the

50 development of VoicesFromAbroad.org without the need to start from first principles;
51 and

52
53 **Whereas** DA advocacy teams with any area of focus could make use of the platform; and

54
55 **Whereas** the success of the Democratic Party in driving legislative and regulatory reform
56 is critical to the fate of the nation and the success of the Party in maintaining the support
57 of the U.S. electorate; and

58
59 **Whereas** the substantial growth of DA caucus and other issues-advocacy teams has
60 created the need for some overarching member-engagement infrastructure and
61 congressional-outreach architecture in order to efficiently facilitate member participation
62 in our campaigns as well as to sensibly coordinate the campaign activities of the issues-
63 advocacy teams;

64
65 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports the establishment of an ad
66 hoc committee to study the establishment of a messaging tool for DA advocacy teams to
67 engage activists to communicate with those holding elected office or running for elected
68 office about law or regulatory reforms; and

69
70 **Be It Further Resolved** that Democrats Abroad shall allocate resources in 2021 in
71 support of the work of the ad hoc committee and for reviewing and actioning the
72 recommendations of the committee.

73
74 *Co-sponsors: Joe Smallhoover (DA France, DNC Member, International Counsel); Rebecca*
75 *Lammers (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep); Angela Fobbs (DA Germany, DPCA Voting Rep);*
76 *Annamarie Mattson (DA France, DPCA Voting Rep 2019-2021); Nathalie Bachiri (DA*
77 *Luxembourg, Chair); Allesandro Marra (DA Italy, DPCA Voting Rep); Martha McDevitt-Pugh*
78 *(DA Netherlands, DNC Member); Tre-Shawn Griffin (DA Netherlands, DPCA Voting Rep).*
79

80 #4

81 **In Support of Democrats Abroad Joining the RBT Coalition**

82

83 *Proposed by: Carmelan Polce (DA Australia, DPCA Voting Rep; DA Tax Task Force Chair)*

84 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

85

86 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad (DA) has invested heavily in advocacy in support of tax-
87 and financial-account-reporting relief for bona fide Americans abroad; and

88

89 **Whereas** DA is committed to Residency Based Taxation (RBT) as a policy reform that
90 would eliminate double taxation of income; remove barriers to saving and investing; and
91 greatly simplify tax-filing from abroad; and

92

93 **Whereas** arguments in support of this reform will have greater impact on lawmakers the
94 greater the number of individuals and organizations presenting them; and

95

96 **Whereas** DA has worked in collaboration or in parallel with many other organizations
97 representing Americans abroad; and

98

99 **Whereas**, in the area of tax advocacy, DA has a strong working relationship with
100 American Citizens Abroad (ACA); and

101

102 **Whereas** ACA is leading the establishment of an RBT Coalition to demonstrate broad
103 support for RBT [see proposal document below]; and

104

105 **Whereas** the DA Taxation Task Force Chair and members who have worked with ACA
106 are persuaded that ACA will be faithful to the terms and conditions outlined in the
107 proposal document and will guard against “mission creep”;

108

109 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that DA shall become a member of the RBT Coalition; and

110

111 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA reserves the right to withdraw from the Coalition should
112 it stray from what is profiled in the proposal document or for any other reason.

113

114 *Co-sponsors: Joe Smallhoover (DA France, DNC Member, International Counsel); Nathalie*
115 *Bachiri (DA Luxembourg, Chair); Allesandro Marra (DA Italy, DPCA Voting Rep); Tre-Shawn*
116 *Griffin (DA Netherlands, DPCA Voting Rep); Rebecca Lammers (DA UK, DPCA Voting Rep);*
117 *Ken Sherman (DA Canada, DNC Member, DPCA Voting Rep).*

118

119

120

120 **Talking Paper**

121

121 **Coalition for Residency-Based Taxation**

122 These are preliminary thoughts about creation of a coalition supporting enactment of residency-
123 based taxation – what it might look like, some elements that might be addressed, and some
124 things that might best be avoided. (The coalition is herein referred to as “RBT Coalition”).

125

126 I. What It Will Look Like

127 A. Overview

128 The RBT Coalition will be an informal group of organizations that openly support enactment of
129 residency-based taxation (RBT) in lieu of citizenship-based taxation (CBT).

130 The RBT Coalition will present widely-accepted arguments in favor of residency-based taxation. It
131 will assemble information about RBT and make this information available to the public and to
132 governments, including the U.S. government. It will also disseminate this information to the news
133 media.

134 It will be “informal” in that it will not be an association of any type or a separately organized entity.
135 Consequently, it will not file for any form of tax-exempt status with the IRS or be required to make
136 any tax filings. It will not advocate for enactment of a specific piece of legislation, such as, a
137 congressional bill or resolution, or a particular action by the legislative, executive or judicial
138 branch of the U.S. government. It will not conduct itself in a manner which would require it or any
139 entity or individual associated with it to have to register as a lobbyist. In no manner will it
140 participate in, or intervene in (including the publication and distribution of statements), any
141 campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. It will not collect monies.
142 It would not, directly or indirectly, give any gift or pay for the travel of any member or employee of
143 Congress. Any contributions, donations, or the like will not be made through the Coalition.

144 The RBT Coalition will not have officers or directors or spokesmen/spokeswomen.

145 Any action taken on behalf of the Coalition will require unanimous consent of all its participating
146 organizations, indicated in writing.

147 It will hold meetings when two or more participants call for meeting and a majority of participants
148 agrees, whether or not they wish to attend. Meetings may be “in person” or “virtual”, with notice to
149 all participants.

150 The records of the Coalition will be maintained and shared as agreed by the participating
151 organizations. “Records” could include minutes of meetings and correspondence.

152 B. Composition – at outset and evolving over time
153 At the outset, the RBT Coalition will be comprised of a group of participating organizations drawn
154 from different segments of the expat community.

- 155 1. Organizations representing Americans abroad – individuals and businesses. Examples
156 are American Citizens Abroad, AARO, FAWCO, Democrats Abroad, Republicans
157 Overseas, the US Chamber of Commerce (including sub-groups and similar groups, such
158 as, business councils).
- 159 2. Social and Business groups of Americans. Examples: American Clubs, American-
160 foreign trade associations, American overseas business associations.
- 161 3. Policy oriented groups and so called “think tanks”
- 162 4. Service providers that cater in some measure to expats. These individual service
163 providers include:
 - 164 (a) Different segments of the broadly-defined tax return preparation services community.
165 Within this population are return preparers – large, medium-sized, and small
 - 166 (b) Investment advisers and asset managers that are focused on the expat community.
167 This population ranges from medium-sized firms to offices or “shops” within large
168 organizations.
 - 169 (c) Legal advisors. This includes some individuals and small firms but more often
170 “practices” within larger firms.
 - 171 (d) Software providers and other tech-oriented groups. This is a small, specialist
172 population.
 - 173 (e) Relocation agencies and similar organizations.
 - 174 (f) Large public accounting firms and economic consultancies.
 - 175 (g) Elements to be addressed

176 C. What is it expected to do?
177 Its focus will be entirely on replacing citizenship-based taxation with RBT. The principal
178 arguments in favor, such as, tax fairness and efficiency, will be agreed to by all participants.

- 179 D. How formal a structure?
180 There will be no formal structure, such as, a management committee or a committee of advisors.
181 There will be a list of participants with contact information. All participants will sign an agreed
182 expression of support for adoption of RBT in place of CBT.
- 183 E. Governance
184 No formal governance. No one participant or individual will be authorized to act on behalf of or
185 speak for the coalition. Members must unanimously agree on any actions, such as, signing a
186 letter to Congress. No one can sign on behalf of individual members. Individual members must
187 separately sign anything with their name on it.
- 188 F. How to proceed.
189 Start with a small group and build from there. The population of participants can be expected to
190 grow with signs of progress on the legislative front.
- 191 II. Things To Be Avoided
192 A. Anything that looks like a proposal.
193 B. Anything that could be characterized as lobbying.
194 C. Anything that is politically partisan.
195 D. Anything that is or appears to be self-promotional.
196
197

198 #7

199 **On Strengthening Democratic Institutions in the U.S.**

200

201 *Proposed by: Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair)*

202 *Author: Vincent S. D'Agati (DA Guatemala)*

203 *Co-sponsor: John Chudy, (DA Guatemala, Vice Chair)*

204

205 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad is pleased that the House of Representatives will be
206 investigating events that brought about the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6,
207 2021 which sought to disrupt our democratic institutions; and

208

209 **Whereas** over the past decade many historians, consumer advocates, economists, and
210 journalists such as Ralph Nader, Thomas L. Friedman, Nancy Maclean, Garry Kasparov,
211 and James Wiggins, have researched and analyzed the complex root causes of the
212 deterioration of our democratic form of government; and

213

214 **Whereas** leaders in the House and Senate have yet to assimilate this information and
215 develop a comprehensive strategy to address these complex causes effectively; and

216

217 **Whereas** DA believes that the nation would be well served if a Presidential Advisory
218 Commission were formed to develop such a strategy;

219

220 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad encourages the Biden Administration
221 to appoint a Presidential Advisory Commission made up of leading national political
222 thinkers and public policy intellectuals including those cited above, along with
223 Representatives and Senators, to develop a strategy to address the root causes weakening
224 our democratic institutions; and

225

226 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall mobilize its members to urge their elected
227 representatives, candidates for office, the Democratic Party as a whole, and members of
228 the public to support the creation of such a Commission.

229

230 #8

231 **On Polarization of the Electorate**

232

233 *Proposed by: Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair)*

234 *Author: Mary Lou Ridinger (DA Guatemala)*

235 *Co-sponsor: John Chudy (DA Guatemala, Vice Chair)*

236

237 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad is concerned about the polarization of the U.S. electorate
238 and believes that steps should be taken to bring about better communication among
239 voters to strengthen our democracy; and

240

241 **Whereas** recent studies show that 38% of Americans do not prefer democracy as their
242 form of government; and

243

244 **Whereas** democracy should be promoted from the bottom up and not from the top down,
245 the teaching of civics should come with an economic incentive offered at the community
246 level to encourage participation; and

247

248 **Whereas** the USA was founded during the Age of Enlightenment and the founders
249 believed that, through science, the people could be led to value reason; and

250

251 **Whereas** polarization begets more polarization in a negative feedback loop; and

252

253 **Whereas** many Trump voters – who seem hindered by reality-distortion syndrome, don't
254 believe in science, and are receiving most of their news and forming their political
255 opinions through religious leaders or conspiracy theories promoted on social media or
256 through organizations promoting racial hatred – might benefit from civics education with
257 an economic incentive of future employment in local infrastructure projects;

258

259 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports establishment of a joint task
260 force between the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor to promote and teach civics
261 through community job-training programs.

262

263 #9

264 **On Central American Immigration in 2021**

265

266 *Proposed by: John Chudy (DA Guatemala, Vice Chair)*

267 *Co-sponsor: Kee Evans (DA Guatemala, Chair)*

268

269 **Whereas** the Trump Administration over its four years implemented nearly 400 anti-
270 immigrant measures ranging from the mild of simply raising the costs of visa applications
271 to the inhumane such as its Zero Tolerance policy that separated 2,700 children from
272 their parents, leaving over 540 children in detention centers with no trace of their
273 parents;¹ and

274

275 **Whereas** the majority of irregular migrants currently arriving at the U.S. southern border
276 originate from Central America, mainly from the Northern Triangle countries of El
277 Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala;² and

278

279 **Whereas** these countries together accounted for 71% (607,774) of all apprehensions at
280 the U.S.-Mexico border in 2019, far outnumbering those from Mexico (166,458);³ and

281

282 **Whereas** despite high deportations – for example, a record of 105,000 returned to
283 Guatemala in 2019, and over 43,000 in 2020 – the majority of deportees intend to return
284 to the USA because of growing poverty and pressing need;⁴ and

285

286 **Whereas** Hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020 directly affected over four million
287 people in Northern Triangle countries, with more than 200,000 families negatively
288 impacted by crop losses, with tens of thousands of climate refugees created in Honduras,
289 and with 133,000 in Guatemala displaced and housed in shelters with no home to return
290 to, many of them intending to migrate north;^{5,6} and

291

292 **Whereas** economic decline due to COVID-19, plus the added trauma of Hurricanes Eta
293 and Iota, has devastated formal employment, hitting Northern Triangle countries hardest,⁷
294 and

295

¹ Editorial Board, *“Trump’s Overhaul of Immigration is Worse Than You Think,”* New York Times, October 10, 2020

² Capps, R., Meissner, D., Ruiz Soto, A.G., Bolter, J., Pierce, S., *“From Central America to Crisis: Changing Trends and Policies Reshaping U.S.-Mexico Border Enforcement,”* Migration Policy Institute, August 2019, pps. 1-2

³ Pew Research Center, November 1, 2019, *What’s Happening at the US-Mexico Border in Five Charts*

⁴ Jorge Ramos, *“The Perpetual Crisis at the Border and What We Can Do About It,”* New York Times, April 2, 2021

⁵ Prensa Libre, Guatemala, *Más de 133 mil pasarán navidad en albergues (More than 133,000 will spend Christmas in shelters),* December 24, 2020

⁶ Nicole Narea, *“Migrants are Heading North Because Central America Never Recovered from Last Year’s Hurricanes,”* Vox, March 22, 2021

⁷ Press Release, *“Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean,”* Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, December 16, 2020

296 **Whereas** in Guatemala alone 60% of the working population has been forced into
297 informal economic activities, and the number of children suffering from acute
298 malnutrition has risen to 25,000 compared with 15,300 in 2019;⁸ and
299
300 **Whereas** the decades-old phenomenon of Central American children forced out of homes
301 and communities has evolved from migrating to the streets of Northern Triangle capitals
302 to eventually migrating to the USA as unaccompanied minors, such as the 18,000
303 children who arrived at the U.S. southern border between October 2020 and March
304 2021;⁹ and
305
306 **Whereas** the Biden Administration is familiar with the historical profile of Northern
307 Triangle countries, including persistent poverty coupled with recent worsening of
308 prospects for people in the region due to the pandemic and hurricanes;^{10,11} and
309
310 **Whereas** the 2020 Democratic Party Platform calls for the U.S. to work with our regional
311 and international partners to address the root causes of migration in the Americas:
312 violence and insecurity, lack of educational and economic opportunity, and
313 environmental degradation;
314
315 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad expresses its support to the House
316 Committee on Foreign Affairs, the House Caucus on Central America, the Senate
317 Committee on Foreign Affairs and its sub-committee for the Western Hemisphere, and
318 the Biden Administration through Vice President Harris’s portfolio on the Northern
319 Triangle, for actions that include:
320 (1) Creating a family reunification committee that would allow deported family members
321 to return to the USA while their family members are being located;
322 (2) Passing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021;
323 (3) Creating and leading a regional effort, engaging both regional governments and civil
324 groups, to strengthen Northern Triangle governance, democratic institutions, general
325 security, and the fight against corruption and impunity;
326 (5) Raising awareness of street children and structuring appropriate responses throughout
327 the Northern Triangle region; and
328 (6) Ending the Trump era Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) and replacing them with a
329 streamlined process to allow entry of asylum seekers into the U.S.
330

6 Kevin Seif, *“The Reason Many Guatemalans are Coming to the Border? A Profound Hunger Crisis,”* Washington Post, April 1, 2021

9 Julia Ainsley, *“Record Number of Unaccompanied Children Crossed the Border in March,”* NBC News, April 2, 2021

10 Dan Restrepo, *Central Americans Are Fleeing Bad Governments,* Foreign Affairs, March 5, 2021

11 Naomi Roht-Arriaza, *“To Combat Central America’s Bad Governance, Biden Can’t Just Throw Money at the Problem,”* Just Security, March 29, 2021

331 #12

In Support of Statehood for Puerto Rico

amended then withdrawn

334 *Proposed by: Kendra Borgen (DA Netherlands, Chair)*

335 *Author: Orlando Vidal (DA United Arab Emirates, Legal Counsel; DNC Member 2016-*
336 *2020).*

337 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

338
339 **Whereas** Puerto Rico has been an unincorporated territory of the United States since the
340 Spanish American War of 1898; and

341
342 **Whereas** Congress granted U.S. citizenship to the people of Puerto Rico 104 years ago in
343 1917; and

344
345 **Whereas** federal law applies supremely and with full force and effect in Puerto Rico; and

346
347 **Whereas** the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico have the right to elect their territorial
348 government but have no right to vote for President, Vice President, Representatives, or
349 Senators, and are only represented in Congress by a non-voting member called “Resident
350 Commissioner”; and

351
352 **Whereas** the U.S. citizens of Puerto Rico are consistently discriminated against in many
353 federal programs; and

354
355 **Whereas** there are currently approximately 3.1 million American citizens residing in
356 Puerto Rico; and

357
358 **Whereas** Puerto Rico has recently experienced a dramatic reduction in its population (by
359 almost 900,000) as many have left for the mainland U.S. in search of better economic
360 opportunities and equal citizenship rights; and

361
362 **Whereas** in the most recent plebiscites (in 2012, 2017, and 2020) the people of Puerto
363 Rico chose statehood as their preferred status;¹² and

364
365 **Whereas** only statehood would extend equality of citizenship, including full
366 representation, to our citizens in Puerto Rico; and

367
368 **Whereas** in 2017 the Democratic National Committee approved a Resolution
369 cosponsored by the Puerto Rico delegation, the entire delegation of Democrats Abroad
370 DNC Members, and others supporting statehood for Puerto Rico; and

371
372 **Whereas** also in 2017 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
373 (NAACP) approved a Resolution in support of statehood for Puerto Rico; and

374

¹² The word “overwhelmingly” was deleted before the word “chose”.

375 **Whereas** the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) has also and
376 repeatedly called on Congress to admit Puerto Rico as an equal State of our Union; and
377

378 **Whereas** the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights – the principal autonomous
379 organ of the Organization of American States (OAS), whose mission is to promote and
380 protect human rights in the American hemisphere – is currently considering a class action
381 comprising all U.S. citizens residing in Puerto Rico asserting that in denying them the
382 right to vote for President, Vice President, and Senators and Representatives in Congress,
383 the United States is in violation of the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of
384 Man and of the Inter-American Democratic Charter; and
385

386 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad stands for the right of all citizens to vote regardless of their
387 place of residency; and
388

389 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad’s platform does not currently include any provision
390 supporting statehood for Puerto Rico;
391

392 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad fully supports statehood for Puerto
393 Rico if and only if the majority of Puerto Rican voters have chosen the option of
394 statehood in a congressionally sponsored referendum from among a slate of political
395 status options and accompanying transition plans including statehood, independence, free
396 association and other possible options, which will be determined by a constitutional
397 convention on Puerto Rico’s political status created to prepare the referendum, whose
398 delegates will have been elected by the voters of Puerto Rico, as called for in the Puerto
399 Rico Self-Determination Act of 2021,¹³ and
400

401 **Be It Further Resolved** we recommend that the 2024 Democrats Abroad platform
402 include a plank supporting statehood for Puerto Rico; and
403

404 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA shall include statehood for Puerto Rico among the
405 important issues on which it advocates, and shall lobby Congress and the Administration
406 to respond to the democratic will of the people of Puerto Rico and bring about statehood
407 for Puerto Rico as soon as possible.
408

409 *Co-sponsors: Onélica Andrade (Vice Chair, DA Belgium); Willem Bakker (EMEA*
410 *Regional Vice Chair, DA Luxembourg); John Baumlín (Chair, DA Japan); Moshe*
411 *Chertoff (DPCA Voting Representative, DA Israel); Gregory Dolezal (Chair, DA*
412 *Vietnam); Reno Domenico (Chair, DA Ukraine); Matthew Eugene Goldman (DPCA*
413 *Voting Rep, DA Belgium); Lord Tre’Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DPCA Voting Rep,*
414 *DA Netherlands; Co-Chair, Global LGBTQ+ Caucus); Daniel James (Chair, DA Spain);*
415 *Geneva Louise Jones (Vice Chair, DA United Arab Emirates); Alicia Kauffman (DPCA*
416 *Voting Rep, DA United Arab Emirates); Candice Kerestan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
417 *Germany); Sam Khunaizi (Chair, DA United Arab Emirates); Aaron Kruse (DNC*
418 *Member, DA China); James Mercereau (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Laura*
419 *Rostowfske Reilly (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); LeeAnn Sandler (DPCA Voting Rep,*

¹³ Everything after “statehood for Puerto Rico” was added by amendment.

420 *DA Israel); Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA India); Katie Solon (DNC Member, DA*
421 *Germany); Heather Stone (Vice Chair, DA Israel); Ángela-Jo Touza-Medina (DCPA*
422 *Voting Rep, DA Spain); Kathryn Tullos (Vice Chair, DA Spain); Quaide Williams (DPCA*
423 *Voting Rep, DA Germany); Lissette Wright (International Treasurer, DA Canada); Ada*
424 *Shen (DPCA Voting Rep, DA France); additional support from the DA Hispanic Caucus*
425 *Steering Committee.*

426 #13

427 **To (1) Expand the Travel Fund to Include Stipends for Members**
428 **Interested in Attending DNC, ASDC, and DA Regional Meetings;**
429 **and (2) for Other Purposes**
430

431 *Proposed by: Sue Alksnis (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); John Baumlín (DA Japan, Chair);*

432 *David Mivasair (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep)*

433 *Author: Orlando Vidal (DA United Arab Emirates)*

434 *Co-sponsors: listed below*
435

436 **Whereas** in March of 2014, during DPCA's Global Meeting in Washington, D.C.,
437 Democrats Abroad resolved to establish a Travel Fund and Committee to grant stipends
438 pre-approved by the International Chair, in consultation with the International Treasurer
439 and the rest of DPCA's Executive Committee, to active and deserving members who
440 wish to participate in DPCA global meetings in person, but who otherwise could not
441 afford to attend; and
442

443 **Whereas** thereafter the Travel Fund and Committee were established and, since then, the
444 Committee has awarded stipends of up to \$500 each to 27 active and deserving members
445 to attend DPCA global meetings in person; and
446

447 **Whereas** both the Democratic National Committee (DNC) and the Association of State
448 Democratic Party Committees (ASDC) hold several meetings on an annual basis in
449 various parts of the United States; and
450

451 **Whereas** the International Chair, Vice Chair, and DA's DNC delegation attend these
452 meetings on a regular basis; and
453

454 **Whereas** currently the Travel Fund Committee is not authorized to award stipends to
455 active and deserving members who wish to attend DNC, ASDC, or DA Regional
456 meetings; and
457

458 **Whereas** it is in the best interest of Democrats Abroad to:

459 (1) improve the transparency of and increase access to both the DNC and the ASDC;

460 (2) improve the understanding and increase the knowledge of our members in the
461 important role DA plays in these institutions;

462 (3) allow for greater participation of our members who, by attending these meetings,
463 could actively assist our delegations in the important business being transacted there;

464 (4) further opportunities for accountability by our DA elected and appointed leaders;

465 (5) improve attendance at Regional meetings;

466 (6) increase participation of members who are younger, working-class, or from otherwise
467 under-represented communities; and

468 (7) facilitate the gaining by our members of experience and the development of
469 relationships that could, in turn, be helpful in the future to DA as these members
470 themselves and others may wish later to stand for elected and appointed positions
471 within DA;
472

473 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Travel Fund is hereby expanded to include stipends
474 for active and deserving members to also attend DNC, ASDC, and DA Regional
475 meetings (excluded from qualifying for these stipends are the International Chair and
476 Vice Chair who may otherwise benefit from pre-approved DA-budgeted funds to
477 subsidize their DA-related travel expenses); and
478

479 **Be It Further Resolved** that the Travel Fund Committee design and implement a
480 transparent mechanism to request and process such applications; and
481

482 **Be It Further Resolved** that, in the further interests of transparency and accountability,
483 all recipients of Travel Fund stipends shall submit a report to the Travel Fund Committee
484 within 30 days of attendance at any meeting for which the stipend was awarded,
485 describing the business transacted at the event and the recipient's individual
486 contribution(s) to the success of the meeting. The Travel Fund Committee shall make
487 those reports publicly available on the Travel Fund page of DA's website; and
488

489 **Be It Further Resolved** that DA DNC Members, in particular, and all Travel Fund
490 recipients, generally, are strongly encouraged to actively pursue fundraising opportunities
491 that will increase the resources available in the Travel Fund.
492

493 *Co-sponsors: Onélica Andrade (Vice Chair, DA Belgium); Kendra Borgen (Chair, DA*
494 *Netherlands); Lord Tre'Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
495 *Netherlands; Co-Chair, Global LGBTQ+ Caucus); Geneva Louise Jones (Vice Chair,*
496 *DA United Arab Emirates); Alicia Kauffman (DPCA Voting Rep, DA United Arab*
497 *Emirates); Sam Khunaizi (Chair, DA United Arab Emirates); Diego Rivas (DPCA*
498 *Voting Rep, DA Germany); and Lissette Wright (International Treasurer, DA Canada).*
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#14

To Keep the Pershing Hall Collections and the Time Capsule in France

*Proposed by: Anna Marie Mattson, Co-Chair of DA France Veterans and Military Families
Caucus and DA France DPCA Voting Rep*

Co-sponsors: Max Dunitz, Drew Lombardi, and Dani Follett, DPCA Voting Reps, DA France

Whereas in 1928 the American Legion Building at 49 rue Pierre Charron, Paris 75008 France – known as Pershing Hall – was purchased by the Legionnaires of Paris Post 1, as The American Legion Building, Paris, Inc., to serve as a gathering place and recreation center for U.S. veterans, U.S. civic organizations, and other American groups in France, and as a monument and memorial to the World War I American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) commanded by General John Pershing; and

Whereas, when the project began experiencing financial difficulties in 1936, the U.S. Government drew on profits accrued in a fund – initiated by soldiers who had purchased the World War I newspaper *Stars and Stripes* – to settle the mortgage and outstanding construction costs, thus avoiding foreclosure, and establishing a memorial fund to defray costs of building maintenance without using any U.S. taxpayer money; and

Whereas the building was the home and headquarters of the American Legion inaugural unit Paris Post 1, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 605, and various French-American associations until all were evicted in 1993; and

Whereas the historic artwork, furnishings, and documents comprising the cultural heritage in Pershing Hall were seized by the U.S. government in 1993; and

Whereas a small portion of the artifacts in the building – according to a 1991 inventory – have recently been found, after apparently being left abandoned in storage at French national museums for almost three decades; and

Whereas in 2019 the historic Chateau Thierry stone, and the time-capsule containing historic documents and artifacts commemorating the inauguration of the building and belonging to Paris Post 1 of the American Legion, were extracted from Pershing Hall by the American Battlefield Monuments Commission (ABMC) during renovations and remain in its custody; and

Whereas the remains of this rich historic and cultural heritage risk being exported across international borders by the ABMC, raising grave concerns that WW I and II veterans in France will lose more of their history and culture; and

Whereas the Paris Post of the American Legion has requested our help in keeping these valuable treasures in France;

Therefore Be It Resolved that Democrats Abroad urges the House Veterans Affairs Committee of the U.S. Congress to call upon the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the American Battlefield Monuments Commission (ABMC) to assure that its collection, as well as the time-capsule and its contents, remain in France and be stored,

549 restored, and displayed as part of the cultural and historical patrimony of, and serve as a
550 memorial to, the Americans who fought in World War I and World War II, serving as
551 well as a pilgrimage site for their descendants, as was the intent of U.S. lawmakers.
552
553

554 #17

555 **In Support of Reactivation of the Atrocities Prevention Board**

556

557 *Proposed by: Sue Alksnis (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep)*

558 *Authors: Carol Adamson (DA Sweden); Eero Carroll (DA Sweden); Salli Swartz (DA France)*

559 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

560

561 **Whereas:**

- 562 ● preventing massive human rights violations including genocide is a national security
563 interest which should be central for all governments, because it is an imperative moral
564 necessity; and
- 565 ● timely prevention can reduce human suffering and reduce the need for more onerous
566 policy measures once violence has broken out; and
- 567 ● there are no mechanisms that ensure enforcement of the UN Convention on the
568 Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (1948); and
- 569 ● the cross-departmental working group Atrocities Prevention Board (APB) that was
570 founded in 2012 in response to a directive from President Obama (PSD-10) and chaired
571 at the National Security Council, while not formally abolished, has only met
572 sporadically since 2016; and
- 573 ● the U.S. Department of State has previously supported the APB's work to identify
574 countries at risk, to monitor crisis situations under development, and to coordinate
575 regional and functional bureaus to follow up on risks and develop and disseminate
576 knowledge of analytical methods that work to predict and prevent genocide; and
- 577 ● because the APB lacked dedicated resources (also during the term of its first
578 chairwoman, Samantha Power), it was unable to make significant contributions to
579 prevent or assuage civil conflicts in Syria, Iraq, and South Sudan; yet
- 580 ● because the APB was credited with preventing escalating post-election violence in
581 Burundi in 2015, and earlier also brought attention to evolving conflicts in Nigeria and
582 the Central African Republic, with the U.S. ultimately co-providing (together with the
583 UN) peacekeeping and conflict mediation assistance in the latter case;

584

585 **Therefore be it resolved:**

- 586 ● that Democrats Abroad supports reactivation of the Atrocities Prevention Board (APB),
587 with the same kind of interdepartmental organization and structure that it was founded
588 with in 2012, with sufficient dedicated resources to accomplish its mandate to
589 coordinate a “whole of government” approach to preventing mass atrocities and
590 genocide; and
- 591 ● that Democrats Abroad's International Chair shall constitute a Genocide Prevention
592 Task Force to mobilize our members to urge their elected representatives, candidates
593 for office, the Democratic Party as a whole, the Biden-Harris administration, and
594 members of the public to support the reactivation of the APB; and
- 595 ● that Democrats Abroad shall advocate the reactivation of the APB by all other
596 reasonable means, including informing the government agencies that had been
597 members of the APB since its foundation in 2012; and

598

- 599 **Be it further resolved:**
600 ● that Democrats Abroad shall urge policymakers to assure that the APB be chaired at the
601 National Security Council and led from the White House, and include highly placed
602 representatives, at least at the assistant secretary level, of involved departments or
603 agencies, including the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, Justice, and
604 Homeland Security, with civil-society organizations as either full or observing
605 members; and
606 ● that the APB should also include representation from the military leadership in Joint
607 Staff, USAID, the United States' UN delegation, the office of the National Security
608 Director, the CIA, and the Vice-presidential staff; and
609 ● that the APB should be tasked with conducting regular meetings in order to formulate
610 and execute comprehensive and effective preventive programs against massive human
611 rights violations and atrocities; and
612 ● that the APB should develop early warning systems, which are crucial to prevention,
613 and make use of the latest developments in statistical modeling within the social
614 sciences, as well as more traditional analytic techniques and shared intelligence; and
615 ● that the APB should place greater emphasis on developing common understanding
616 amongst the participating parties of what the prevention of genocide and massive
617 human rights violations actually entails, developing a shared training curriculum for
618 employees of appropriate U.S. Agencies and Departments, and developing concrete
619 plans for preemptive action in all cases of escalating violence worldwide; and
620 ● that the APB should play a more proactive role in strengthening contacts in the
621 international research and activist community dedicated to genocide and atrocity
622 prevention, such as outreach to NGOs and a published annual report of its activities.

623
624 *Co-sponsors: Ed Ungar (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Bill Borden (DPCA Voting Rep, DA*
625 *Sweden); Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA India); Dave Brauer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Japan);*
626 *Ángela-Jo Touza-Medina (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Anya Leonhard (DPCA Voting Rep,*
627 *DA Germany); Daniel James (Chair, DA Spain); Kathryn Tullos (Vice Chair, DA Spain); David*
628 *Hoyt (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Marilyn Ball Brown (Vice Chair, DA Hungary); David*
629 *Mivasair (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Anny Schrader (DPCA Voting Rep, Mexico); Reno*
630 *Domenico (Acting Chair, DA Ukraine); Aaron Kruse (DNC Member, DA China); Quaide*
631 *Williams (DPCA Voting Rep, Germany); Bruce Murray (DPCA Voting Rep 2019-2021, DA*
632 *Austria); Katie Solon (DNC Member, DA Germany).*
633

634 #18

635 **To Relieve the Financial and Administrative Burdens**
636 **of the Present U.S. Tax- and Financial-Reporting Systems**
637 **for Americans Abroad, while Ensuring that the Ultra-Rich**
638 **Pay Their Fair Share of Taxes No Matter Where They Reside**

639
640 *Proposed by: Ed Ungar (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep)*

641 *Co-sponsors: Sue Alksnis and Marnelle Dragila (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Reps; Dave Brauer*
642 *(DA Japan, DPCA Voting Rep)*

643
644 **Whereas** the Democrats Abroad Taxation Task Force does an excellent job raising
645 awareness in Congress and among other decision-makers about U.S. taxation burdens on
646 Americans living abroad, collecting data on their experiences, and engaging them in
647 contacting their members of Congress to explain need for relief; and

648
649 **Whereas** it is beholden on us to make sure that DA is putting forward policy that most
650 effectively implements our aims and values; and

651
652 **Whereas** Democrats do not accept Republicans' basic belief that – to paraphrase the late
653 Harvard macroeconomist John Kenneth Galbraith – the rich don't have enough money,
654 and the poor have too much; and

655
656 **Whereas** shopping for tax shelters is a significant problem for governments around the
657 world, so that simply eliminating the citizenship basis for taxation would allow ultra-rich
658 Americans to avail themselves of residency in some Caribbean mansion (or similar tax
659 shelter) and evade paying their fair share; and

660
661 **Whereas** current wealth-tax proposals put forward by Democratic members of Congress
662 would not require Americans to pay a single penny on wealth below either fifty or
663 seventy-five million dollars; and

664
665 **Whereas**, according to the Wharton Business School, holding the ultra-rich accountable
666 via such a wealth tax could provide the U.S. government 2.7 trillion dollars over ten years
667 from the wealthiest fraction of 1% of Americans. and other credible estimates are higher,
668 up to 3.5 to 4 trillion; and

669
670 **Whereas** the ultra-rich should be blocked from using residence outside the USA to evade
671 and avoid paying their fair share of U.S. taxes including income tax; and

672
673 **Whereas** the American public, in polls, consistently and overwhelmingly support a
674 wealth tax and increased income taxes on the rich; and

675
676 **Whereas** the present system of tax for Americans living abroad rarely collects enough
677 from each person to cover the expense of processing our tax returns, so that we have in
678 effect a foreign accountants' income and job-enhancement program;

679

680 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that DA shall support measures to relieve well over 90% of
681 Americans living abroad from the needless burden and expense of reporting income in
682 two jurisdictions as well as measures to deny the ultra-rich the privilege of sovereignty-
683 shopping to avoid their fair share of taxation (in other words, the 90+% would have de
684 facto residence-based taxation while the ultra-rich would have both de facto and de jure
685 citizen-based taxation); and

686

687 **Be It Further Resolved** that in order to simplify the process of income tax reporting in
688 multiple jurisdictions and reduce the burden on Americans abroad, DA endorses:

- 689 • Introducing a very simplified, one-paragraph tax return for Americans abroad in the
690 case where they do not owe any tax; and
 - 691 • Raising the Foreign Earned Income Exclusion from the current \$108,700 to \$400,000
692 indexed to inflation; and
 - 693 • Introducing compatible reforms with regard to financial-asset reporting (FATCA and
694 FBAR); and
 - 695 • Enacting capital gains tax relief for U.S. citizens upon sale of their primary residence
696 abroad, thus resolving the present inequity resulting from the fact that they are not
697 eligible for tax relief under the mortgage interest deduction; and
- 698 Combining these measures with a globally-assessed wealth tax on assets over 50 or 75
699 million dollars.

700

701 #19

702 **Supporting H.R. 2590 Prohibiting Use of U.S. Military Foreign Aid**
703 **for Detention of Children**

704

705 *Proposed by: Rabbi David Mivasair (DA Canada, DPCA Voting Rep); Sam Khunaizi (DA UAE,*
706 *Chair); Ridah Sabouni (DA UAE, Chair 2019-2021)*

707 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

708

709 **Whereas** Democrats Abroad values human rights, equality, and democracy for all
710 people; and

711

712 **Whereas** DA recognizes the importance of upholding U.S. law in all regards concerning
713 the use of American military foreign aid, and Congress must ensure that American
714 taxpayer dollars never support military detention or abuse of children; and

715

716 **Whereas** the Israeli government receives billions of dollars annually in assistance from
717 the U.S., far more than any other country;¹⁴ and

718

719 **Whereas** since 2000 an estimated 10,000 Palestinian children have been detained by
720 Israeli security forces and prosecuted in Israeli military courts;¹⁵ and

721

722 **Whereas** independent monitors such as Human Rights Watch have documented that
723 these children are subject to abuse and, in some cases, torture, specifically citing the use
724 of chokeholds, beatings, and coercive interrogation of children aged 11 to 15;¹⁶ and

725

726 **Whereas** the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) also found that Palestinian children are
727 frequently held for extended periods without access to either parents or attorneys, and
728 both the U.S. State Department and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child have
729 raised serious concerns about the mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military
730 custody;¹⁷ and

731

732 **Whereas** U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04) has introduced H.R. 2590, the *Defending*
733 *the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military*
734 *Occupation Act*, prohibiting Israel from using U.S. taxpayer dollars in the abuse or ill-
735 treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention or in Israel’s seizure and
736 destruction of Palestinian property and homes or unilateral annexation of Palestinian
737 territory in violation of international humanitarian law;¹⁸ and

738

¹⁴ Source: Congressional Research Service. “U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel”. November 16, 2020.

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/details?prodcode=RL33222>

¹⁵ Source: <https://mccollum.house.gov/palestinianchildrensrightrights>

¹⁶ Source: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2016/04/11/palestine-israeli-police-abusing-detained-children>

¹⁷ Source:

https://www.unicef.org/oPt/UNICEF_oPt_Children_in_Israeli_Military_Detention_Observations_and_Recommendations_-_6_March_2013.pdf

¹⁸ Source: <https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/mccollum-introduces-historic-legislation-defending-human-rights-palestinian>, https://www.congressfeed.com/bill_talk/HR2590.

739 **Whereas** thirteen other Democratic members of Congress have signed as co-sponsors of
740 H.R. 2590;¹⁹

741

742 **Therefore be it resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports H.R. 2590, shall inform
743 members of Congress of our support, and shall encourage DA members to urge their own
744 members of Congress and candidates for federal office to support it and similar
745 legislation to assure that U.S. foreign military aid is not used to violate the human rights
746 of children.

747

748 *Co-sponsors: Sue Alksnis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Onelica Andrade (Vice Chair, DA*
749 *Belgium); Natalie Bachiri (Chair, DA Luxembourg); Saba Brevli (Vice Chair 2019-2021, DA*
750 *UAE), Susan Brennan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Reno Domenico (Acting Chair, DA*
751 *Ukraine); Tim Ellis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada); Matthew Goldman; (DPCA Voting Rep,*
752 *DA Belgium); Tre' Shawn L. Griffin-Noordermeer (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Netherlands); Geneva*
753 *Jones (Vice Chair, DA UAE); Alicia Kauffman (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UAE); Bruce Murray*
754 *(DPCA Voting Rep 2019-2021, DA Austria); Denise Roig (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada);*
755 *Rajib Sengupta; (Vice Chair, DA India); Ken Sherman (DNC Member, DA Canada); Angela-Jo*
756 *Touza-Medina (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Lissette Wright (International Treasurer, DA*
757 *Canada).*

758

759 **RESOURCES**

760 CNN: [Israeli troops detained a 9-year-old Palestinian at school. 'becoming normal',](#)
761 [locals say](#)

762 Haaretz: ['Endless Trip to Hell': Israel Jails Hundreds of Palestinian Boys a Year. These](#)
763 [Are Their Testimonies](#)

764 VOX: [Arresting children here is becoming normal](#)

765 B'Tselem: [Unprotected: The Detention of Palestinian Teenagers in East Jerusalem](#)

766 The Times of Israel: [US aid should serve security purposes only -- The US is justified in](#)
767 [ensuring that its aid bolsters American values and not the occupation and unjustified](#)
768 [actions against Palestinians.](#)

769 Haaretz: [America's Unconditional Love for Israel Must End -- America needs an open,](#)
770 [honest discussion about why it still funnels billions of U.S. taxpayers' dollars to Israel, a](#)
771 [wealthy, developed country that routinely violates human rights on a massive scale, with](#)
772 [no questions asked](#)

773 [Full text of H.R. 2590](#) [McCollum webpage re H.R. 2590](#)

774 **Congressional Co-sponsors:** Bobby L. Rush (IL-01), Danny K. Davis (IL-07), Andre Carson (IN-07),
775 Marie Newman (IL-03), Ilhan Omar (MN-05), Mark Pocan (WI-02), Raúl Grijalva (AZ-03), Rashida Tlaib
776 (MI-13), Ayanna Pressley (MA-07), Cori Bush (MO-01), Jamaal Bowman (NY-16), Alexandria Ocasio-
777 Cortez (NY-14), Jesús "Chuy" García (IL-04)

778 **Endorsing Organizations:** Adalah Justice Project, Al-Haq, Americans for Peace Now, American-Arab
779 Anti-Discrimination Committee, American Friends Service Committee, American Muslims for Palestine,
780 Arab American Institute, Arab Resource & Organizing Center, Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies,
781 Center for Constitutional Rights, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Christian Jewish Allies for a Just
782 Peace in Israel/Palestine, Churches for Middle East Peace, Church of the Brethren – Office of
783 Peacebuilding and Policy, Coalition of Palestinian American Organizations, CODEPINK, Council on
784 American-Islamic Relations, DAARNA, Dallas Palestine Coalition , Defense for Children International –

¹⁹ Source: <https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/mccollum-introduces-historic-legislation-defending-human-rights-palestinian>

785 Palestine, Democracy for the Arab World Now, Detention Watch Network, Disciples Israel Palestine
786 Network, DSA BDS and Palestine Solidarity Working Group, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran
787 Church in America, Eyewitness Palestine, Freedom Forward, Friends Committee on National Legislation,
788 Friends of Sabeel – Colorado, Friends of Sabeel North America, Good Citizens Of DFW, Grassroots
789 Global Justice Alliance, IfNotNow, Institute for Policy Studies – New Internationalism Project, Israel
790 Palestine Mission Network of the Presbyterian Church (USA), J Street, The Jerusalem Fund, Jewish Voice
791 for Peace Action, Jews for Racial & Economic Justice, Justice Democrats, MADRE, Massachusetts Peace
792 Action, Middle East Children’s Alliance, Movement for Black Lives, MPower Action Fund, National
793 Council of Churches USA, National Lawyers Guild, National Union of Palestinian Youth, New Generation
794 for Palestine, NGP Action, Norwegian Refugee Council, Palestine American League, Palestinian Christian
795 Alliance for Peace, Palestine Legal, Peace Action, Presbyterian Church (USA), Progressive Democrats of
796 America, Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice, Rebuilding Alliance, Reconstructionist
797 Rabbinical Association, Reformed Church in America, ReThinking Foreign Policy, Sacramento Democrats
798 for Justice in Palestine, Sacramento Regional Coalition for Palestinian Rights, Tree of Life Educational
799 Fund, U.S. Palestinian Community Network, Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, United
800 Church of Christ, United Church of Christ Palestine Israel Network, United Methodists for Kairos
801 Response, United We Dream Network, U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, U.S. Palestinian Council,
802 Veterans For Peace, Virginia Coalition for Human Rights, War Resisters League, Win Without War,
803 Working Families Party.
804

805 #20

806 **To Condition Military Aid to Israel**

807

808 *Proposed by: Ridah Sabouni (DA UAE, Chair 2019-2021) and Rabbi David Mivasair (DA*
809 *Canada, DPCA Voting Rep)*

810 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

811

812 **Whereas** the 2020 DA Platform states that “America is safest and at its most prosperous
813 when it acts abroad in accordance with its values, when it stands as a leader among
814 allies;”²⁰ and

815

816 **Whereas** the U.S. provides more military aid to the government of Israel than to any
817 other country, including 38 billion dollars over the next decade, and more than 146
818 billion dollars since 1948;²¹ and

819

820 **Whereas**, through its veto power in the UN Security Council, the U.S. provides Israel
821 with more diplomatic protection than any other country, blocking resolutions seeking to
822 hold it accountable for alleged violations of international law and human rights;²² and

823

824 **Whereas** a 2018 University of Maryland public-opinion poll found that 56% of
825 Democrats support imposing serious measures, including sanctions, against Israel if it
826 refused to end settlement expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories;²³ and

827

828 **Whereas** Senator Bernie Sanders stated in 2019 that “At a time when we spend \$3.8
829 billion on military aid to Israel, we have the right to say to the Israeli government that the
830 United States of America and our taxpayers and our people believe in human rights, we
831 believe in democracy, we will not accept authoritarianism or racism, and we demand that
832 the Israeli government sit down with the Palestinian people and negotiate an agreement
833 that works for all parties... I would use the leverage, \$3.8 billion is a lot of money, and we
834 cannot give it carte blanche to the Israeli government or to any government at all, we
835 have the right to demand respect for human rights and democracy;”²⁴ and

836

837 **Whereas** President Jimmy Carter, the current and first-ever Honorary Chair of
838 Democrats Abroad, stated in his 2006 book “Palestine: Peace not Apartheid” that “The
839 bottom line is this: Peace will come to Israel and the Middle East only when the Israeli
840 government is willing to comply with international law, with the Roadmap for Peace,
841 with official American policy, with the wishes of a majority of its own citizens – and
842 honor its own previous commitments – by accepting its legal borders. All Arab neighbors
843 must pledge to honor Israel’s right to live in peace under these conditions. The United

²⁰ Source: <https://www.democratsabroad.org/platform>

²¹ Source: Congressional Research Service. “U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel”. November 16, 2020.
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/details?prodcode=RL33222>

²² Source: Jewish Virtual Library. U.N. Security Council: U.S. Vetoes of Resolutions Critical to Israel (1972 - Present). <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/u-s-vetoes-of-un-security-council-resolutions-critical-to-israel>

²³ Source: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/12/11/americans-are-increasingly-critical-of-israel/>

²⁴ Source: <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/467772-sanders-floats-leveraging-aid-to-israel-to-push-for-policy-changes>

844 States is squandering international prestige and goodwill, and intensifying global anti-
845 American terrorism, by unofficially condoning or abetting the Israeli confiscation and
846 colonization of Palestinian territories;”²⁵ and

847

848 **Whereas** numerous human rights organizations around the world, including Human
849 Rights Watch and Amnesty International, have concluded that the government of Israel
850 commits war crimes and gross human rights violations against Palestinian civilians,
851 including the use of torture, extra-judicial killings, and the indiscriminate bombing of
852 residential areas, which has led to the deaths of hundreds of children;²⁶ and

853

854 **Whereas** the U.S. State Department’s Human Rights Report has cited evidence that
855 “Israeli security services continued to abuse, and in some cases torture, minors whom
856 they frequently arrested on suspicion of stone-throwing to coerce confessions. Tactics
857 included beatings, long-term handcuffing, threats, intimidation, and solitary
858 confinement;”²⁷ and

859

860 **Whereas** numerous American Jewish groups including Jewish Voice for Peace and
861 IfNotNow have called for conditioning U.S. military aid on Israel ending its occupation
862 of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem;²⁸ and

863

864 **Whereas** U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04) has introduced H.R. 2590, the *Defending*
865 *the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military*
866 *Occupation Act*, prohibiting Israel from using U.S. taxpayer dollars in the abuse or ill-
867 treatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military detention or in Israel’s seizure and
868 destruction of Palestinian property and homes or unilateral annexation of Palestinian
869 territory in violation of international humanitarian law;²⁹ and

870

871 **Whereas** the “Leahy Laws” – two statutory provisions which apply to the Dept. of
872 Defense and Dept. of State – prohibit the U.S. Government from funding units of foreign
873 security forces where there is credible information implicating them in the commission of
874 gross violations of human rights (GVHR), specifically stating that “the U.S. government
875 considers torture, extrajudicial killing, enforced disappearance, and rape under cover of
876 law as GVHRs;”³⁰

²⁵ Source: Jimmy Carter, “Palestine: Peace not Apartheid”. <https://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/455407-palestine-peace-not-apartheid>.

²⁶ Source: Human Rights Watch (<https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/north-africa/israel/palestine>), Amnesty International (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>).

²⁷ Source: U.S. Department of State, 2013 Human Rights Reports: Israel and The Occupied Territories - The Occupied Territories. <https://2009-2017.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/2013/nea/220358.htm>.

²⁸ Source: <https://www.ifnotnowmovement.org/press-release-ifnotnow-welcomes-letter-calling-to-withhold-military-funding-if-israel-annexes>, <https://jewishvoiceforpeace.org/jewish-voice-for-peace-on-peace-u-s-military-aid-and-israel-2004/>

²⁹ Source: <https://mccollum.house.gov/media/press-releases/mccollum-introduces-historic-legislation-defending-human-rights-palestinian>, https://www.congressfeed.com/bill_talk/HR2590, <https://mccollum.house.gov/palestinianchildrensrights>.

³⁰ Source: U.S. Department of State, About the Leahy Law (Fact Sheet) <https://www.state.gov/key-topics-bureau-of-democracy-human-rights-and-labor/human-rights/leahy-law-fact-sheet/>.

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Therefore Be It Resolved that Democrats Abroad shall advocate, through Congress and the Administration, for American tax dollar-funded military aid to the State of Israel to be conditioned on Israeli compliance with international law, UN resolutions, and respect for human rights; and

Be It Further Resolved that DA shall advocate, through Congress and the Administration for application of the Leahy Laws to the State of Israel; and

Be It Further Resolved that DA supports H.R. 2590, shall inform members of Congress of our support, and shall encourage DA members to contact their Congressional representatives and candidates for federal offices to support it and similar legislative proposals.

Co-sponsors: Susan Alksnis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada), Susan Brennan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada), Saba Brevli (Vice Chair 2019-2021, DA UAE), Tim Ellis (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada), Geneva Jones (Vice Chair, DA UAE), Sam Khunaizi (Chair, DA UAE), Bruce Murray (DPCA Voting Rep 2019-2021, DA Austria), Denise Roig (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Canada), and Rajib Sengupta (Vice Chair, DA India).

897 #22

898 **To Regulate Social Media**
899 **and Limit Negative and Divisive Effects**
900 **on Society Around the World**

901
902 *Proposed by: Chris Reilly (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain)*

903 *Co-sponsors: listed below*

904

905 **Whereas** the relentless dissemination of fictions and lies by traditional and new-economy
906 media companies, in return for profit and influence for the disproportionate benefit of a
907 tiny group of unelected and unaccountable founders & directors, must be regulated and
908 curtailed; and

909

910 **Whereas** conscious propagation of outright lies and disinformation must have significant
911 penalties for owners and directors of said media companies; and

912

913 **Whereas** the ability of unelected and unaccountable individuals to influence the
914 outcomes of democratic elections through deliberate targeted manipulation of facts,
915 information, and fictional messages, aka “fake news”, must end;

916

917 **Therefore Be It Resolved** that Democrats Abroad supports measures to hold individual
918 founders/owners/directors personally responsible for permitting use of their technology
919 platforms and algorithms to amplify and disseminate lies, disinformation, and
920 misinformation and/or to incite unlawful behavior; and

921

922 **Be It Further Resolved** that measures considered shall include enhanced government
923 oversight; independent corporate advisory boards; algorithmic transparency; robust
924 regulation relating to privacy, antitrust, and ownership; and restoration of the Fairness
925 Doctrine.

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927 *Co-sponsors: Katie Solon (DNC Member, DA Germany); Julia Bryan (Global Chair, DA Czech*
928 *Rep); Maya Buchanan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA UK); Daniel James (Chair, DA Spain); Jim*
929 *Mercereau (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Candice Kerestan (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany);*
930 *Angela-Jo Touza-Mendoza (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Spain); Lissette Wright (International*
931 *Treasurer, DA Canada); Laura Rowstofske-Reilly (DPCA Voter Rep, DA Spain); Natali Bachiri*
932 *(Chair, DA Luxembourg); Angela Fobbs (DPCA Voting Rep, DA Germany); Dana Rawls (DA*
933 *Australia, Global Black Caucus Cochair).*

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938 [c5a52ea8bad6.html](https://www.axios.com/democrats-strike-back-at-big-tech-menu-c962b61d-1c1c-48cd-bc67-c5a52ea8bad6.html)

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