

Democrats Abroad Passes Ten Resolutions - November 12, 2023

The Democratic Party Committee Abroad passed the following resolutions (DPCA) on Sunday, November 12, 2023:

RESOLUTION Urging the Biden Administration to Publish and Congress to Affirm the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment to the Constitution. Page 2

RESOLUTION 21st Century Economic Bill of Rights. Page 5

RESOLUTION Federal Legislation to Protect Women's Rights. Page 7

RESOLUTION Protecting Our Future by Protecting Our Children. Page 9

RESOLUTION to End Fossil Fuel Subsidies. Page 14

RESOLUTION to Ban New Fossil Fuel Extraction Permits on Federal Lands and Waters. Page 16

RESOLUTION to Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground! Page 19

RESOLUTION to Recognize Former U.S. House Member Carolyn B. Maloney's Support for Americans Abroad. Page 21

RESOLUTION Urging Congress to Hold Hearings on the Taxation and Financial-Account Access of Americans Abroad. Page 23

RESOLUTION to Include ADA Accommodations for DA Meetings. Page 26

RESOLUTION Urging the Biden Administration to Publish, and Congress to Affirm, the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment to the Constitution

Proposed by Shari Temple (DEU)

Co-Sponsors: Kenton Barnes (DEU), Marnie Delaney (FRA), Christina Skovsgaard (NOR), Ann Hesse (DEU), Carol Moore (GBR), Kaitlyn Kennedy (DEU), William Prescott (MEX), Clifford Stuehmer (DEU), Katie Solon (DEU), Susan Brennan (CAN), Emily Lines (DEU), Connie Borde (FRA), Peter Kaiser (CHE), Carmelan Polce (AUS), Kent Getsinger (AUS), Joshua Van der Ploeg (GBR), Chesney McKinley Severance (DNK), Tre' Shawn Griffin-Noordermeer (NLD), Dana Freling (FIN), Kathryn Tullos (ESP), Chris Reilly (ESP), Michael Ramos (AUS), Leedonal Jazz Moore (CHE), Max Dunitz (FRA), Alan Cheilek (GBR), Jim Mercereau (ESP), Beth Landry (SWE), Martha McDevitt Pugh (NLD), Tim Connelly (PAN), Hope Bradberry (MEX), Steve Nardi (CAN), Jacob Wesoky (CAN), Elizabeth O'Leary (ZAF), Dani Follett (FRA), Heather Stone (ISR), Kee Evans (GTM), Brett McHargue (GBR), Quaide Williams (DEU), Patricia Schnably Shields (IRL), Adrienne George (SWE), John Brady Kiesling (GRC), Antar Keith (DEU), Angela Fobbs (DEU), Cory Lemke (KOR), Bob Bragar (NLD), Joseph Smallhoover (FRA), Andrew Stites (NOR), Adrienne Johnson (GBR), Vanessa Moore (SGP), Jennifer von Estorff (DEU), Juan Cerda (FRA), Marjorie Rosenberg (AUT), Julia Bryan (CZE), Laura Mosedale (GBR), Marilyn Ball Brown (HUN), David Mivasair (CAN), Karen Lee (GRC), Constance Chucholowski (DEU), Suma Shamanna (IND), Susan Fitoussi (FRA), Betsy Ettore (FIN), Reno Domenico (UKR), Malaiksa Kuskumi (DEU), Art Schankler (SRB), Teresa Ritterhoff (DEU), Ada Shen (FRA), Carl Landon Taylor (DEU), Elizabeth Neil Voss (CHE), Sarajeon Rossitto (JPN), Cassandra Engeman (SWE), Aisling O'Leary (SGP), Merrill Oates (HUN), Rachel Eugster (CAN), Ken Sherman (CAN), Erin Kotecki Vest (CAN), Kendra Borgen (NLD), Mark Neel (DEU), Alden Conner (GBR), Daniel C. Stein (MEX), Inge Kjemtrup (GBR), Michael March (THA), Powen Shiah (DEU), José Miguel Madrigal (CRI), Bruce Murray (AUT), Karena Detweiler (DEU), Adrienne George (SWE), Michelle Taube (DNK), Kari Hiepko-Odermann (UKR), Sue Alksnis (CAN), Julie Buchanan (CAN)

Supporters: Eliot Goldman (FRA), John Yee (CAN), Heather Piwowar (CAN), Karl Barth (ESP), Gail Ann Fagen (ITA), Joel Parthemore (SWE), Terese Sarno (DEU), Aileen K. Dinin (DEU), Geoffrey Simmons (DEU), Pegi Jones (DEU), Diane Haven (PRT), Nicole Gross (DEU), Lori Hakulinen (FRA), John McQueen (DEU), John McDermott (FRA), Salli Swartz (FRA), Peter R. Butterfield (CHE), Ron Schlundt (DEU), Sarah Mulloy (DEU), Sheri Eklund (SWE), Kelly Ann Feenan (ITA), Doris Stanger (ESP), Amy Peaceman (DEU), Esta Charlene Devereux (GBR), Bob Vallier (FRA), Katie Bathgate (DEU), Andrea Host-Barth (ESP), Apiorkor Seyiram Ashong-Abbey (GHA), Eric Gondree (JPN), Jeffrey Edison (BEL), Sandra Keegan (BEL), George Anna Clark (MEX), Shannon Parry (CAN), Helenka Kinnan (ITA), Eero Carroll (SWE), Lissette F. Wright (CAN)

WHEREAS the Equal Rights Amendment was first introduced in Congress in 1923; and

WHEREAS Article V of the U.S. Constitution sets forth a two-step amending procedure in which the first step requires a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress – or approval by a

convention called by application of two-thirds of the states – and the second step is ratification by three-fourths of the states; and

WHEREAS in 1972 Congress met the first step by adopting the following joint resolution of the House and Senate – two-thirds of each concurring – with a time limit not within the text of the amendment *but only in the preamble (and thus without force or effect)*:

“That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by legislatures of three-fourths of the several States *within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress*:

ARTICLE

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification” and;

WHEREAS the Constitution does not grant Congress the authority to unilaterally limit the time for states to ratify amendments – which itself would be a substantive change to the Constitution – but rather *any such change must be within the text of the amendment subject to ratification by the states*, as it was with both the Twenty-first and the Twenty-second Amendments, which succeeded within the time limit; and as it was with the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, which expired due to insufficient state ratifications; and

WHEREAS for example, the so-called Madison Amendment – relating to compensation of members of Congress – proposed to the states by two-thirds vote of each house of Congress in 1789, had not been ratified by three-fourths of the states until 1992, but was then published by the Archivist of the United States as the Twenty-seventh Amendment, and subsequently affirmed as such by vote of Congress; and

WHEREAS, although a few states have purported to rescind their ratification of the amendment, the Constitution only gives states the power of ratification, not rescission; and

WHEREAS Samuel Johnson's dictionary (1755) defines "ratify" as "to confirm, to settle"; similarly James Madison wrote to Alexander Hamilton (in a letter dated July 20, 1788) that ratification is "in toto and for ever"; and similarly Bouvier's Law Dictionary (1856) – considered the first American legal dictionary – asserts that a ratification once done "cannot be revoked or recalled"; and

WHEREAS the various attempts throughout history to rescind ratifications of the Constitution or its amendments, including of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth Amendments, have never been honored; and

WHEREAS, as of January 27, 2020, three-fourths of the states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment, thus completing the second step of the amending procedure; and

WHEREAS the need for the Equal Rights Amendment is as important now as it was in 1923;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad urges the Biden Administration to publish the Equal Rights Amendment – and Congress to pass a joint resolution affirming it – as the Twenty-eighth Amendment to the Constitution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DA calls on state legislatures and state parties to pass the same or similar resolutions; and finally

BE IT RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution shall be transmitted by DA's International Chair to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Archivist of the United States, and the Chair of the Democratic National Committee.

RESOLUTION 21st Century Economic Bill of Rights

Proposed by Kent Getsinger (AUS)

Co-sponsors: Sue Alksnis (CAN), Betsy Ettorre (FIN), Bruce Murray (AUT), Kaitlyn Kennedy (DEU), Antar Keith (DEU), David Mivasair (CAN), Heather Stone (ISR), Angela Fobbs (DEU), Daniel C. Stein (MEX)

WHEREAS, in his 1944 State of the Union Address, President Franklin Roosevelt articulated popular American hopes, values, and aspirations by calling for a Second Bill of Rights—an Economic Bill of Rights for all Americans; and

WHEREAS polls conducted by the White House in 1943 had revealed that after the war Americans wanted guaranteed healthcare, guaranteed employment, and guaranteed aid to students; and

WHEREAS the increasing concentration of wealth, the widening inequalities, climate destabilization and the intensifying crisis of American democratic life at home and abroad demands that we advance this call now; and

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad, given our global experience, have also faced these challenges and can lead the party in advocating the freedom from want enshrined as inalienable human rights; and

WHEREAS empowered by those findings, FDR declared, “We have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence.... We have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all regardless of station, race, or creed”; and

WHEREAS all of that is as true today as it was 78 years ago;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we the as Democrats Abroad, gathered at the 2023 DPCA AGM, call on all Democratic candidates and officeholders to support a 21st Century Economic Bill of Rights, that affirms:

- the right to a job that pays a living wage;
- the right to a voice in the workplace through a union and collective bargaining;
- the right to comprehensive quality health care;

- the right to a complete cost-free public education and access to broadband internet;
- the right to decent, safe, affordable housing;
- the right to a clean environment and a healthy planet;
- the right to a meaningful endowment of resources at birth and a secure retirement;
- the right to sound banking and financial services;
- the right to an equitable and economically fair justice system; and
- the right to vote and otherwise participate in public life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge DA's 2024 Platform Committee to add the 21st Century Economic Bill of Rights as a plank in its draft submitted to the DPCA.

RESOLUTION Federal Legislation to Protect Women's Rights

Proposed by: Connie Borde (FRA)

Co-sponsors: *Carol Moore (GBR), Ann Hesse (DEU), Shari Temple (DEU), Angela Fobbs (DEU), Christina Skovsgaard (NOR), Marnie Delaney (FRA), Joseph Smallhoover (FRA), Dani Follett (FRA), Ada Shen (FRA), David Mivasair (FRA), Laura Kuykendall (FRA), Hope Bradberry (FRA), Carmelan Polce (AUS), Bob Bragar (NLD), Christopher Reilly (ESP), Aisling O'Leary (SGP), Sally DeSipio (PRT), Josh Van der Ploeg (GBR), Quaide Williams (DEU), Ruth Parsons (GBR), Elaine Capizzi (GBR), Max Dunitz (FRA), Marjorie Bernstein (FRA), Doris Stanger (ESP), Rachel Eugster (CAN), Kenneth Sherman (CAN), Kenton Barnes (DEU), Malaika Kusumi (DEU), Christian J. Gross (DEU), Heather Stone (ISR), Katie Solon (DEU), Clifford Stuehmer (DEU), Carl Landon Taylor (DEU), Michael Ramos (AUS), Antar Rashid Keith (DEU), Susan Fitoussi (FRA), Leedonal Jazz Moore (CHE), Julia Bryan (CZE)*

Supporters: *Salli Swartz (FRA), Naomi Ages (NOR), Sheila Malovany-Chevallier (FRA), Brooke Scott (CAN), Shannon Parry (CAN), Shelley Bradford Bell (FRA), Gretchen Pascalis (FRA), Karin Lippert (CAN), Monica Cardenas (GBR), Andrea Host-Barth (ESP), Sylvia Wallach (GBR), Pegi Jones (DEU), Adrienne Johnson (GBR), Michael Ramos (AUS), Antar Rashid Keith (DEU), Susan Fitoussi (FRA), Leedonal Jazz Moore (CHE), Julia Bryan (CZE), Jim Mercereau (ESP), Bruce Murray (AUT), Karena Detweiler (DEU)*

Supporter: *Lisette F. Wright (CAN)*

WHEREAS the mission of Democrats Abroad is to get out the vote, women make up the majority of voters in the United States, and over 60% of DA members are women, constituting a powerful force within DA to register more women and men to vote; and

WHEREAS systemic discrimination has resulted in American working women making on average 83 cents on the dollar compared to working men, with minority and poor women paid even less; and

WHEREAS this discrimination is exacerbated by the lack of a federal right to affordable, accessible childcare and elder care, as well as the lack of a national program for family, sick, and maternity leave, which many American women living and working abroad enjoy; and

WHEREAS closing the gender gap¹ in the workforce would increase economic security² and prosperity for all; and

WHEREAS in many states the Dobbs Supreme Court decision which ended the constitutional right to an abortion has limited or eliminated a woman's ability to choose when to start or enlarge a family – as well as reducing access to women's health care – creating enormous inequalities amongst women in different states but also deepening inequities for minority and poor women, putting women's lives in danger, and subjecting their health care professionals to risk of prosecution; and

WHEREAS gender equality is further undermined by sexual harassment, violence, and abuse which is endemic in American communities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad, as has been the case in the 2020 Democrats Abroad Platform, reaffirms its strong support for strategic efforts to mobilize the vote among American women living abroad and recommits to advocating forcefully on the many crucial issues facing women in state legislatures and in Congress and on ballots nationwide that threaten their freedom; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that – in addition to our support for recognition of the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution – DA's 2024 Platform Committee is requested to include a plank addressing women's rights and DA's International Chair and Global Women's Caucus Chair are requested to submit copies of this resolution – with a cover letter requesting federal protection for women's reproductive choices and bodily autonomy via the Women's Health Protection Act or equivalent legislation – to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority Leader of the Senate, the Minority Leader of the House, and the Chairs of relevant committees in both the House and Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad shall work with appropriate organizations and the Administration to insure full economic and gender equality.

¹ US Census: "What Is the Gender Wage Gap in Your State?"

<https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/03/what-is-the-gender-wage-gap-in-your-state.html>

² Source: US State Department, Office of Global Women's Issues, "US Strategy on Global Women's Economic Security," p, 2, 2022.

RESOLUTION Protecting Our Future by Protecting Our Children

Proposed by: Angela Fobbs (DEU)

Co-sponsors: Sue Alksnis (CAN), Ann Hesse (DEU), Michael Ramos (AUS), Dana Freling (FIN), Connie Borde (FRA), Christina Skovsgard (NOR), Malaika Kusumi (DEU), Carl Landon Taylor (DEU), Christian J. Gross (DEU), Kenton E. Barnes (DEU), Marnie Delaney (FRA), Shari Temple (DEU), Antar Rashiq Keith (DEU), Carol Moore (GBR), Kaitlyn Kennedy (DEU), Patricia Shields (IRL), Juan Cerda (FRA), Bruce Murray (AUT), Kent Getsinger (AUS), Aisling O’Leary (SGP), Heather Stone (ISR), Suma Shamanna (IND), Karen Lee (GRC)

Supporters: Shannon Parry (CAN), Brooke Scott (CAN), Salli Swartz (FRA), Andrea Host-Barth (ESP)

WHEREAS ALL children, without exception, deserve our care and protection and means to grow and thrive; and

WHEREAS guns are the leading cause of death for US children and teens, surpassing car accidents in 2020. Each day, 12 children die from gun violence in America¹. Another 32 are shot and injured²; and

WHEREAS since Columbine in 1999, more than 338,000 students in the U.S. have experienced gun violence at school; and

WHEREAS suicide is the second-leading cause of death among people aged 15 to 24 in the U.S. Nearly 20% of high school students report serious thoughts of suicide, and 9% have made an attempt to take their lives³; and

WHEREAS more than 9 million children, or 1 in 8 children, faced hunger in 2021⁴. Kids who don’t get enough to eat – especially during their first three years – begin life at a serious disadvantage. Children facing hunger are more likely to be hospitalized and face higher risks of health conditions like anemia and asthma. And as they grow up, kids who miss meals are more likely to have problems in school and other social situations; and

¹ Children and teens are more likely to die by guns than anything else.
<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/03/29/health/us-children-gun-deaths-dg/index.html>

² 17 Facts About Gun Violence And School Shootings
<https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/blog/gun-violence/facts-about-gun-violence-and-school-shootings/>

³ Suicide rate highest among teens and young adults
<https://www.uclahealth.org/news/suicide-rate-highest-amongCh-teens-and-young-adults>

⁴ Facts about child hunger in America
<https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/child-hunger-facts>

WHEREAS a pandemic-era program allowed every student to get free meals for the past two years⁵. In June 2022, Congress ended the program, and students returned to paying for their lunch, burdening the 1.54 million students who could not afford the cost; and

WHEREAS the illegal use of child labor in the U.S. is rising. In the last fiscal year, 835 companies employed more than 3,800 children illegally, according to the Labor Department⁶; and

WHEREAS already in 2023, eight bills to weaken child labor protections have been introduced in six Midwestern states (Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and South Dakota) and in Arkansas, where a bill repealing restrictions on work for 14- and 15-year-olds has now been signed into law⁷. One bill introduced in Minnesota would allow 16- and 17-year-olds to work on construction sites. Ten states have introduced, considered, or passed legislation rolling back protections for young workers in just the past two years; and

WHEREAS children’s lives today and in the future are under threat from the climate emergency. The number of climate-related disasters has tripled in the past 30 years. Every child will now inherit a planet with more severe and more frequent extreme weather events that threaten food production than ever before because of a failure of past generations to protect their rights and their future⁸; and

WHEREAS U.S. public schools are places where students from all backgrounds come together to build knowledge and skills to make a better country for all. Yet in 2020-2021, nearly 900 school districts across the United States, representing 35% of all K-12 students, have been affected by local district versions of an intentional campaign to restrict or “ban” what opponents have caricatured as “Critical Race Theory” (CRT), according to a new study published by researchers at UCLA and UC San Diego. This anti-CRT conflict campaign has divided communities and intimidated educators, threatening student learning opportunities⁹; and

⁵ Free school meals helped families during the pandemic. This fall, those lunches won’t return. <https://19thnews.org/2022/08/free-school-meals-pandemic-wont-return/>

⁶ USDA Takes Steps to Prevent Illegal Child Labor <https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2023/04/12/usda-takes-steps-prevent-illegal-child-labor>

⁷ Child labor laws are under attack in states across the country <https://www.epi.org/publication/child-labor-laws-under-attack/>

⁸ AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sixth-assessment-report-cycle/>

⁹ Campaign to Ban “Critical Race Theory” and Restrict Teaching about Race and Diversity Impacts One-Third of U.S. Students Through Local District Conflicts, Controversies, Actions
By John McDonald <https://seis.ucla.edu/news/ideally-u.s.-public-schools-areplaces-where-students>

WHEREAS anti-LGBTQ activists and politicians in 21 states have introduced – and passed – laws to ban transgender youth from participating in school sports, most frequently in K-12 schools but sometimes including in college¹⁰; and

WHEREAS more than 700 children were arrested in U.S. elementary schools during the 2017-2018 school year alone¹¹. In US elementary schools, children with documented disabilities such as ADHD and autism are more likely to be arrested than those without disabilities. Black elementary school students – those enrolled in grades five and below – are more than five times more likely to be arrested at school than their white peers; and

WHEREAS education at public 4-year institutions, students living on campus pay an average of \$11,557 annually for room and board; off-campus boarders pay \$10,941. Student loan borrowers in the United States owe a collective \$1.76 trillion in federal and private student loan debt as of December 2022, according to the most recent quarterly tally by the Federal Reserve¹²; and

WHEREAS school vouchers have a racist origin and perpetuate existing disparities in our K-12 funding and tax systems to further racially and socioeconomically segregate our education system¹³. School vouchers reduce overall state revenues to fund public services like education over time. In some extreme cases, they are designed to divert money that’s already been designated for public schools through their state funding formula. School vouchers typically deplete available state revenues by cutting taxes for people who pay into voucher programs or through line-item appropriations in the state budget. And since the largest share of state spending is on public education,¹⁴ reducing overall state revenues almost inevitably reduces the available funding for public schools, especially as school voucher programs grow; and

WHEREAS during the first half of the 2022-23 school year PEN America’s Index of School Book Bans lists 1,477 instances of individual books banned, affecting 874 unique titles, an increase of 28 percent compared to the prior six months, January – June 2022. Overwhelmingly, book banners continue to target stories by and about people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals¹⁵; and

¹⁰ Bans on Transgender Youth Participation in Sports https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/youth/sports_participation_bans

¹¹ Handcuffs in Hallways: Hundreds of elementary students arrested at U.S. schools <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/hundreds-of-elementary-students-arrested-at-us-schools/>

¹² Federal Reserve. Consumer Credit Outstanding. Accessed Jan 10, 20²³.

¹³ Michael Leachman *et al.*, “Advancing Racial Equity With State Tax Policy,” CBPP, November 15, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/advancing-racial-equity-with-state-tax-policy;>

¹⁴ CBPP, “State Budgets Basics,” revised May 24, 2022, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/state-budgets-basics>

¹⁵ Banned in the USA: State Laws Supercharge Book Suppression in Schools <https://pen.org/report/banned-in-the-usa-state-laws-supercharge-book-suppression-in-schools/>

WHEREAS just in 2023, five states—Mississippi, Utah, South Dakota, Iowa, and Tennessee—have passed bans on gender-affirming care for minors, and nearly 90 other bills targeting access to gender-affirming health care are being considered in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS all the above-mentioned conditions make it difficult for Americans abroad to consider returning home to raise their children or send their children home for college or other reasons; and

WHEREAS the United States has an impact on the whole world, and U.S. children are the future of the United States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that all Democrats Abroad country committees and chapters, caucuses, global teams, and task forces should:

1. Recognize that these issues must be addressed and central to the communications strategy in 2024.
2. Inform and educate our membership about these issues through events, documentary films, social media posts, newsletters, meetings, and other methods.
3. Encourage members to vote down ballot in 2024 and beyond because many of these negative policies occur in state, country, and local governments.
4. Support Democratic Party legislation to improve, diminish, or remediate the above mentioned issues.
5. Support the DA Global Environment & Climate Crisis Council's (ECCC) [National Climate Emergency Petition](#) and circulate it to members for signature.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democrats Abroad 2024 Global Convention be urged to include the following platform planks in the 2024 Democrats Abroad Platform that reflects the aims of this resolution that have not been accomplished by the date of the 2024 Global Convention:

1. Gun violence and gun control;
2. Ending child hunger and increasing free school lunches for all children;
3. Strengthening child labor laws and enforcement;
4. Taking more action on the climate emergency and eliminating the use of fossil fuels;
5. Ensuring American history is taught accurately and includes diverse voices and historical figures;
6. Making college tuition-free and student debt relief;
7. Ending school voucher programs and reinforcing our public school systems;
8. Ending child arrest at elementary schools;
9. Protecting LGBTQ+ Children;
10. Halting book bans;

11. Investing in more effective suicide risk detection and targeted prevention initiatives for younger children;
12. Investing in high-quality childcare and early education;
13. Ensuring gender-affirming care for transgender patients is available/legal nationwide.

RESOLUTION to End Fossil Fuel Subsidies

Proposed by: Dana Freling (FIN)

Authors: Dana Freling (FIN), Sam Goodman (CRI)

Co-sponsors: Angela Fobbs (DEU), Elizabeth Blackburn (CHN), Anne Brady (IRL), Karen Lee (GRC), Ada Shen (FRA)

Supporters: Dash Nesbitt (DEU), Sam Goodman (CRI)

WHEREAS U.S. oil and methane (natural) gas production will reach record highs in 2023, also bringing subsidies to a record peak.¹ The International Monetary Fund estimates global fossil fuel subsidies to be \$5.9 trillion or 6.8% of global GDP in 2020;² and

WHEREAS U.S. direct subsidies to the fossil fuel industry were estimated to be \$20.5 billion per year, including \$14.7 billion from federal subsidies. This figure grows to \$649 billion per year, when externalities such as health, environment and climate factors are taken into account;³ and

WHEREAS the latest IPCC Synthesis Report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes that “removing fossil fuel subsidies would reduce emissions and yield benefits such as improved public revenue, macroeconomic, and sustainability performance”. Redirecting fossil fuel subsidies to meet environmental justice challenges is in line with IPCC recommendations;⁴ and

WHEREAS in the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, the summary text agreed upon by 197 parties from last year’s UN climate conference (COP27), “calls upon Parties... to adopt policies to transition towards low-emission energy systems,” including the “phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies;⁵ and

WHEREAS the United States and other G7 nations have declared they “remain committed to the elimination of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies and encourage all countries to do so by 2025;⁶ and

¹<https://www.forbes.com/sites/rrapier/2023/04/29/us-oil-production-on-track-to-set-a-new-record-in-2023/?sh=372168f97226>

² <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/climate-change/energy-subsidies>

³ <https://www.eesi.org/papers/view/fact-sheet-proposals-to-reduce-fossil-fuel-subsidies-2021>

⁴ <https://www.ipcc.ch/2023/03/20/press-release-ar6-synthesis-report/>

⁵ https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop27_auv_2_cover%20decision.pdf

⁶ <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000160266.pdf>

WHEREAS already in 2021 the United States was among over three dozen countries to declare they would end “direct public support for the international unabated fossil fuel energy sector” within one year. The Biden Administration has proposed getting rid of some of the “most egregious” fossil fuel subsidies in for the Fiscal Year 2024 budget;⁷ and

WHEREAS government subsidies for fossil fuel production could be better used to finance the transition to a green economy in the United States and abroad⁸; and

WHEREAS Representative Earl Blumenauer (OR-03) has proposed the End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2023 (H.R.1493), eliminating nearly a dozen of the most egregious tax breaks enjoyed by the oil and gas industry by amending the Internal Revenue Code;⁹

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad encourages its members to contact their Representatives to pass H.R.1493 (End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2023); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend to our Democrats Abroad 2024 Platform Committee that they include a plank in their draft which embraces eliminating fossil fuel subsidies, with a recommendation to recommit money earmarked for such subsidies toward both financing a just energy transition domestically and increasing its international climate finance commitments.

⁷ <https://www.nrdc.org/bio/sujatha-bergen/congress-should-follow-bidens-lead-fossil-fuel-subsidies>

⁸ <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/climate-change/energy-subsidies>

⁹ https://blumenauer.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/blumenauer.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/blumen_039_xml_0.pdf

RESOLUTION to Ban New Fossil Fuel Extraction Permits on Federal Lands and Waters

Proposed by: Dana Freling (FIN)

Authors: Dana Freling (FIN), Sam Goodman (CRI)

Co-sponsors: Angela Fobbs (DEU), Elizabeth Blackburn (CHN), Anne Brady (IRL), Karen Lee (GRC), Ada Shen (FRA)

Supporters: Sam Goodman (CRI), Dash Nesbitt (DEU)

WHEREAS IPCC (International Panel on Climate Change) reports demonstrate how burning fossil fuels is the primary cause of global warming and predict that CO₂ emissions from existing fossil fuel infrastructure, without additional abatement, would exceed the remaining carbon budget for 1.5C;¹ and

WHEREAS fossil fuel extraction on public lands and in federal waters accounts for 25% of the greenhouse gasses generated by the United States,² and

WHEREAS exploring for and producing fossil fuels disturbs terrestrial and marine ecosystems and can cause other environmental damage;³ and

WHEREAS during his 2020 campaign, President Biden vowed to cut U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by at least 50 percent from 2005 levels by the end of this decade, and said, “No more drilling on federal lands, no more drilling, including offshore – no ability for the oil industry to continue to drill – period;”⁴ and

WHEREAS last year the Biden administration embraced methane (natural) gas to cope with the energy crisis sparked by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the White House allowing the drawdown of up to 180 million barrels of oil from the nation’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the

¹ https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_SYR_SPM.pdf

² <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/global-greenhouse-gas-emissions-data>

³ <https://earthjustice.org/article/why-oil-drilling-public-land-climate-change-harmful>

⁴ [https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/mar/20/facebook-posts/debate-joe-biden-said-no-more-oil-drilling-and-no-/
/](https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/mar/20/facebook-posts/debate-joe-biden-said-no-more-oil-drilling-and-no-/)

largest-ever release from the emergency fuel stock,⁵ which threatens to lock in planet-warming pollution for decades to come;⁶ and

WHEREAS the Biden administration nevertheless approved fossil fuel projects in March, including Conoco Phillips' Willow oil drilling project in Alaska,⁷ which the Bureau of Land Management estimates could produce 576 million barrels of oil over 30 years, which in turn will generate emissions equivalent to the use of 1.7 million gasoline-powered cars a year; and

WHEREAS Sen. Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.) reintroduced his own permitting overhaul measure to speed up approval of new energy projects,⁸ which Democratic leadership agreed to pass in exchange for his support of the Inflation Reduction Act. This has run into opposition from both Democrats and Republicans, and now House Republicans have released their own sweeping energy package, severely limiting environmental reviews; and

WHEREAS a ban on new fossil fuel extraction permits would allow the Executive Office to both signal a strong opposition to new permits and to veto any relevant legislation, should they pass through both houses. Sens. Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) and John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) recently introduced two bills to expedite the approval process for new energy projects:

- One on implementing time limits for the environmental review process, the *Spur Permitting of Underdeveloped Resources Act*,⁹ and
- The other, *Revitalizing the Economy by Simplifying Timelines and Assuring Regulatory Transparency Act*, imposes a strict two-year timeline for environmental reviews while restricting federal agencies' ability to consider the social cost of climate change in decision-making. It also mandates approval of the controversial Mountain Valley Pipeline;¹⁰ and

WHEREAS the Democrats Abroad Environment & Climate Crisis Council (ECCC) is already collaborating with the DNC's ECCC and, under their umbrella, with other state party environmental networks, to disseminate a climate emergency petition and coordinate nation-wide environmental efforts;

⁵ <https://www.npr.org/2022/10/18/1129788081/biden-to-release-another-15m-barrels-from-strategic-reserve>

⁶ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6344296/>

⁷ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2023/03/17/willow-project-alaska-oil-drilling-explained/>

⁸ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/05/02/emissions-disclosure-rules-loom-government-contractors-they-not-happy/>

⁹ <https://www.cassidy.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/SPUR%20Act%20final%20text-2.pdf>

¹⁰ https://www.epw.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/f/d/fd1b22c1-c110-4441-a6c1-d616748b048b/D5463811098B00DA31DC7CC08BA926B1.restart-act-section-by-section-capito-final.pdf

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad Environment & Climate Crisis Council will create and circulate a petition to support an Executive Order banning all new drilling permits for fossil fuels on public lands and waters, in line with Biden-Harris promises during their election campaign, and will submit said petition to the Executive Office; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recommend that our 2024 Platform Committee include a plank in the draft submitted to Democrats Abroad 2024 Platform, advocating for supporting a ban on new fossil fuel extraction permits on public lands and waters. By coordinating with the DNC's Environment & Climate Crisis Council, and other state Democratic Parties under their umbrella, we will push for the plank's inclusion, in substance, in the 2024 Democratic Party Platform.

RESOLUTION to Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground!

Proposed by Bruce Murray (AUT)

Co-sponsors: Aisling O’Leary (SGP), Antar Rashedi Keith (DEU), Betsy Ettore (FIN), Brigit Baur (MEX), Cory Lemke (KOR), Daniel C. Stein (MEX), David Mivasair (CAN), Elizabeth Blackburn (CHN), Kent Getsinger (AUS), Kaitlyn Kennedy (DEU), Kenton Barnes, (DEU), Leedonal Jazz Moore (CHE), Malaika Kusumi (DEU), Marnie Delaney (FRA), Max Dunitz (FRA), Rachel Eugster (CAN), Sue Alksnis (CAN), Suma Shamanna (IND), Tim Connelly (PAN), Vanessa Moore (SGP), Cliff Stuehmer (DEU)

Supporters: Dawn Gartlehner (AUT), Ellen Lewis (AUT), John Baumlin (JPN), Isa Kocher (TUR), Justin Hart (CZE), Maria Christiana Schwarz (AUT), Mohamed Ahmed (KEN), Renee McCormack (AUT), Saras Ganapathy (IND), Sue Kronenfeld (CAN)

WHEREAS we humans have a moral and ecological responsibility to be good stewards of our environment; and

WHEREAS the 2023 IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report¹ asserts with high confidence that “human activities, principally through emissions of greenhouse gasses, have unequivocally caused global warming [and] Global greenhouse gas emissions have continued to increase, with unequal historical and ongoing contributions arising from unsustainable energy use, land use and land-use change, lifestyles and patterns of consumption and production”; and

WHEREAS the Biden-Harris Administration² has set the goal of reducing economy-wide U.S. GHG emissions by 50-52% from 2005 levels in 2030 with a whole of government and society approach³ as our contribution to achieving essential Paris Agreement goals⁴; and

WHEREAS experts assert that even swift and comprehensive implementation of existing federal legislative action is not capable of achieving that goal⁵; and

WHEREAS the 2020 DPCA platform calls for the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies and a ban on drilling for fossil fuel on public lands and water; and

WHEREAS U.S. annual direct subsidies to the fossil fuel industry recently were estimated at roughly \$20.5 billion and tax breaks at an estimated \$121 billion⁶; and

¹<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/syr/resources/spm-headline-statements/>

²<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/04/22/fact-sheet-president-biden-seeks-2030-greenhouse-gas-pollution-reduction-target-aimed-at-creating-good-paying-union-jobs-and-securing-u-s-leadership-on-clean-energy-technologies/>

³ <https://www.state.gov/policy-issues/climate-crisis/>

⁴ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-greenhouse-gas-emissions-rose-13-2022-rhodium-2023-01-10/>

⁶ <https://www.eesi.org/papers/view/fact-sheet-proposals-to-reduce-fossil-fuel-subsidies-2021>

WHEREAS the Biden-Harris Administration approved 6,430 permits for oil and gas drilling on public lands⁷ in its first two years; and

WHEREAS such continued support for extracting fossil fuels thwarts efforts to achieve necessary GHG emissions reductions, threatens biodiversity, and negatively impacts the lives of U.S. Americans at home and abroad;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party Committee Abroad actively supports whole of government and society (federal, state, and local executive, legislative, and judicial) measures to keep fossil fuels in the ground, especially measures intended to:

- *end fossil fuel subsidies and tax breaks, reallocating generated resources to*
 - *accelerate the transition to a renewable energy economy*
 - *ensure just transitions*
 - *protect biodiversity*
 - *increase U.S. international climate finance commitments.*
- *prohibit permits to drill for oil and gas on public lands and waters in the United States and its territories.*

These include but are not limited to:

- *West Coast Ocean Protection Act of 2023⁸*
- *End Oil and Gas Tax Subsidies Act of 2023⁹*
- *EPA Methane Emissions Reduction Program¹⁰*

⁷<https://biologicaldiversity.org/w/news/press-releases/biden-administration-oil-gas-drilling-approvals-outpace-trumps-2023-01-24/>

⁸ <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/22/cosponsors?s=1&r=99>

⁹https://blumenauer.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/blumenauer.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/blumen_039_xml_0.pdf

¹⁰ <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/methane-emissions-reduction-program>

RESOLUTION to Recognize Former U.S. House Member Carolyn B. Maloney's Support for Americans Abroad

Proposed by *Rebecca Lammers (GBR)*

Authors: *Rebecca Lammers (GBR), Michael Ramos (AUS)*

Co-sponsors: *Josh Van der Ploeg (GBR), Joseph Smallhoover (FRA), Laura Mosedale (GBR), Ada Shen (FRA), Robert Levitt (FRA), Mark Pendell (GBR), David Heaps (CHE), Kee Evans (GTM), Shari Temple (DEU), Christina Skovsgaard (NOR), Bill Borden (SWE), Susan Fitoussi (FRA), Angela Fobbs (DEU), Ann Hesse (DEU), Marilyn Ball Brown (HUN), Jim Mercereau (ESP), Cassandra Engeman (SWE), Ruth Parsons (GBR), Paul Martin Schwartz (DNK), Heather Stone (ISR), Ronny Rubin (FRA), Julian Becker (GBR), Carmelan Polce (AUS), Kristin Wolfe (GBR), Tré Shawn Griffin-Noordermeer (NLD), Merrill Oates (HUN), José Miguel Madrigal (CRI), Adrienne George (SWE)*

Supporters: *Amerika Grewal (FJI), Isa Kocher (TUR), Martha Henderson (AUS), Lissette F. Wright (CAN)*

WHEREAS Carolyn B. Maloney is an indisputable Democratic trailblazer, having been the first woman to represent her district on the New York City Council, the first to give birth while serving on the City Council, and the first to represent her district in Congress; and

WHEREAS in 1992 she soundly defeated a fourteen-year Republican incumbent to earn her place in Congress, where she then honorably served the people of New York for three decades, from the 103rd to the 117th Congresses; and

WHEREAS after the attacks of 9/11 she became a fierce advocate for combating terrorist financing and doing everything in her power to better secure New York City from any future attacks; and

WHEREAS she rose to be the most senior Democratic member on both the House Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, of which she became the first woman chair, in addition to becoming the first woman chair of the Joint Economic Committee; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of her district as home to the most overseas constituents in the country, she founded the Congressional Americans Abroad Caucus; she co-chaired the caucus from its founding through to her departure from Congress and worked to make it bi-partisan by including a Caucus co-chair from the Republican Party; and

WHEREAS she prioritized meeting with Democrats Abroad members in-person in DC, online and even in-person during her international travels; and

WHEREAS during her career she proudly sponsored and co-sponsored numerous bills to protect the rights and interests of Americans abroad, including items pertaining to the U.S. census count of Americans abroad, exempting the accounts of Americans abroad in their country of residence from adhering to the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), working to create a federal commission to study the issues affecting Americans abroad, and more; and

WHEREAS with each new Congress she always sought opportunities to work in a bipartisan manner on issues important to the country, such as voting reform and women's rights; and

WHEREAS she sponsored more than eighty bills that passed the House of Representatives, twelve of which were signed into law, by five different Presidents; and

WHEREAS she championed federal funding for health care for 9/11 responders; and

WHEREAS out of the more than 12,000 Members of Congress since our nation's founding, there have been few with as great legislative success, while Representative Maloney was also always a tireless advocate of Democratic Party principles and a fearless champion for all New Yorkers;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad hereby officially recognizes former Representative Carolyn B. Maloney's service with deep appreciation and gratitude.

RESOLUTION Urging Congress to Hold Hearings on the Taxation and Financial-Account Access of Americans Abroad

Proposed by Rebecca Lammers (GBR)

Authors: Rebecca Lammers (GBR), Carmelan Polce (AUS), Charles Bruce (GBR)

Co-sponsors: Josh Van der Ploeg (GBR), Laura Mosedale (GBR), Ada Shen (FRA), Robert Levitt (FRA), Mark Pendell (GBR), David Heaps (CHE), Michael March (THA), Christina Skovsgaard (NOR), Tonei Glavinic (MEX), Bill Borden (SWE), Susan Fitoussi (FRA), Joseph Smallhoover (FRA), Nick Lee (NLD), Marylin Ball Brown (HUN), Jim Mercereau (ESP), Cassandra Engeman (SWE), Ruth Parsons (GBR), Paul Martin Schwartz (DNK), Heather Stone (ISR), Ronny Rubin (FRA), Julian Becker (GBR), Kristin Wolfe (GBR), Tré Shawn Griffin-Noordermeer (NLD)

Supporters: Martha Henderson (AUS), Lissette F. Wright (CAN)

WHEREAS American citizens residing outside the U.S. are obliged in almost all cases to file U.S. tax returns and are liable to pay U.S. tax on their worldwide earnings (subject to certain exclusions and deductions); and

WHEREAS the consequences for failing to file a federal tax return, or for not doing so correctly, may lead to severe financial penalties; and

WHEREAS the rules for filing from abroad are among the most complicated in the Internal Revenue Code and, further, often require individuals to navigate bilateral tax treaties; and

WHEREAS, as evidenced in surveys, including Democrats Abroad tax and financial-access research published in 2012, 2014, 2017, 2019, and 2022:

- The complexity of tax-filing from abroad makes filing more costly than from within the U.S.,
- Substantial accounting and return preparation fees are often incurred even when no U.S. tax is actually owed; and
- Double taxation can occur on non-U.S. retirement accounts, non-U.S. benefits, student scholarships, mortgage refinancings, small-business income, and certain investment income, as well as on so-called “phantom income” attributable to exchange rate fluctuations; and

WHEREAS, due in significant part to the imposition of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA), many Americans abroad find it difficult to open a bank account and obtain even ordinary financial products (e.g., home mortgages) in the country where they live; and

WHEREAS Congress has not focused broadly on the taxation of Americans abroad since the Foreign Earned Income Act was enacted in 1978 (H. R. 9251, 95th Congress; Public Law 95-615); and

WHEREAS DA members and an overwhelming majority of Americans abroad are greatly concerned about the unfairness of the tax system as it applies to them; and

WHEREAS the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 ignored the serious tax problems of Americans abroad and in fact compounded them, especially for small and medium sized American business owners abroad; and

WHEREAS sufficient data and analysis have not been laid before Congress on myriad relevant issues concerning the taxation of American abroad; and

WHEREAS it is generally acknowledged that, as with other segments of the U.S. taxpayer population (regardless of where individuals may reside), there is a tax-compliance “gap” for Americans abroad (i.e., individuals who are not filing all returns required by law); and

WHEREAS the size of this “gap” and the revenue loss associated with it can and must be estimated, as well as what percentage of this “gap” is attributable to failure to know the rules, or other innocent reasons, versus deliberate tax evasion; and

WHEREAS since at least 2017 Democrats Abroad has included in its submissions, testimony, and activist outreach to Congress, the IRS, and the Treasury Department, the urgent need for hearings on the tax and financial-access challenges of Americans abroad;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad urges Congress to hold hearings specifically on the subject of taxation *and financial access* of Americans abroad; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad urges, as part of such hearings, that Congress collect and address all relevant evidence and data relating to Americans abroad, including:

- the size and character of the population of American citizens abroad, including:
 - income, assets, location, migration patterns, composition (including how many are solely U.S. citizens and how many hold dual or multiple nationality),
 - involvement in small and start-up businesses,

- locations of residence (including border areas in Mexico and Canada), and
 - compliance with U.S. tax requirements;
- the history of the existing Internal Revenue Code as well as treaty provisions and their tax-expenditure effects as they relate to Americans abroad, all of which the Congressional Research Service and the General Accountability Office can provide; and
- the Treasury Department and other's views on the taxation of Americans abroad

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Democrats Abroad will seek the support of the Treasury Department for such Congressional hearings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democrats Abroad 2024 Global Convention be urged to include a platform plank in the 2024 Democrats Abroad Platform that reflects the aims of this resolution that have not been accomplished by the date of the 2024 Global Convention.

RESOLUTION to Include ADA Accommodations for DA Meetings

Proposed by Adrienne George (SWE), Heather Stone (ISR), Elizabeth Blackburn (CHN)

Authors: Marnie Delaney (FRA), Adrienne George (SWE)

Co-sponsors: Beth Landry (SWE), Adrienne Johnson (GBR), Marnie Delaney (FRA),

Supporter: Lissette F. Wright (CAN)

WHEREAS there are roughly a billion people in the world with disabilities, defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) – passed by Congress in 1990 and amended in 2008 to protect the civil rights of people with disabilities – as having “*a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities*”; and

WHEREAS providing full accessibility to those with disabilities is an achievable goal but requires focus and effort; and

WHEREAS barriers that deprive persons with disabilities of full participation in activities and communications may include

- systems and policies that hinder involvement,
- a physical environment that is not accessible,
- lack of assistive, adaptive, or rehabilitative technology or services, and
- negative attitudes of other people towards disability; and

WHEREAS Democrats Abroad operates in countries not governed by the ADA but is part of the Democratic Party – the “Big Tent” Party of the USA – and shares its commitment to diversity, including equal rights and opportunities for all;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, to the maximum extent practicable, DA is committed to applying the letter and spirit of the ADA to all our activities and encourages country committees and chapters to do the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that notices of activities and invitations to meetings (in-person, online, or hybrid) should include information about requesting accommodations consistent with ADA standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such activities and meetings should begin with necessary direction or information on availability and use of accommodations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that guidelines will be drafted by the Global Disabilities Caucus – subject to review and approval by the global ExCom – to be shared with DA members, posted on DA websites, and incorporated in leadership training.