

2021 RESOLUTIONS SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

The following are instructions to submit a resolution for consideration at the National Black Caucus of State Legislators' (NBCSL) 44th Annual Legislative Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Proposed Policy Resolutions process commenced on March 9th, 2020. Legislators may access and complete the Proposed Policy Resolution Submission form on that day. Only submissions from dues paying NBCSL legislators will be accepted for consideration at the 44th Annual Legislative Conference.

Legislators may access the submission portal by visiting the following NBCSL website: <https://nbcsl.org/public-policy/res.html>. Upon accessing the form, please follow the instructions to complete and submit your resolution.

Please pay attention to the “**RED (*)**” asterisks next to some fields that are required before legislators can submit a resolution. Resolutions also require a comprehensive summary of the resolution in the mandatory “**Resolution Summary Statement**” field. The “**Upload Body of Policy Resolution**” field is where legislators should upload the body of the resolution. By clicking the “**Browse**” button, legislators can browse their PC for a previously prepared resolution that has been stored.

Once all required fields in the Proposed Policy Resolution Form are complete, please review the resolution for accuracy and grammar before clicking the “**Submit Resolution**” button at the bottom of the completed form.

Legislators will receive an email confirmation, after submitting the resolution form.

To reset the form to its original, blank status, click the “**Reset to Start Over**” button located at the bottom of the page.

For questions about the NBCSL resolution process, please contact the Policy Team at the NBCSL national office at (202) 624-8836.

RESOLUTION DRAFTING GUIDELINES

Policy Resolutions of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) address pressing public policy challenges facing our nation and provide solutions to these issues that NBCSL legislators can implement in their states. NBCSL policy resolutions represent a consensus by NBCSL legislators on issues critical to their constituents or African Americans broadly. These resolutions are anchored in NBCSL's commitment to parity and serve as the policy framework and core values of the organization.

Proposed Resolutions may only be submitted by NBCSL members in good financial standing at the time of proposed resolution was submitted. NBCSL will verify current membership status before including any proposed resolution for consideration at the Annual Legislative Conference.

Proposed Resolutions will be accepted from legislators only through the NBCSL member portal. Proposed Resolutions mailed or emailed to NBCSL national office are not guaranteed to be considered for adoption by NBCSL at its Annual Legislative Conference.

The deadline for *Regular NBCSL Legislators* to submit Proposed Resolutions for consideration at the 43rd Annual Legislative Conference is **Saturday, August 15, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

The deadline for *NBCSL Policy Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs* to submit Proposed Resolutions that fall within the jurisdiction of their committee is **Tuesday, September 15, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. EST.**

Resolution(s) submitted must be national in scope, consistent with NBCSL's mission and established policy, and should contain a qualifying background summary statement. Below is a sample format and language guideline in drafting your submission(s):

Resolution Format Description

WHEREAS - This clause should provide a brief, accurate background for the public policy issue that the resolution addresses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED – This clause should propose solutions, recommend an action item, or announce a position that NBCSL should take on a public policy issue.

Resolution Example 1: EDU-11-27, Common Core Curriculum State Standards

WHEREAS, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) supports the need to improve elementary and secondary education so that all students have equal access to an opportunity for a challenging and enriching education that prepares them to succeed in life regardless of their birth circumstances;

WHEREAS, educational standards help teachers ensure that their students have the skills and knowledge needed to be successful by providing clear goals for student learning;

WHEREAS, NBCSL supports the “Common Core State Standards Initiative” initiated by the

National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, which ensures that regardless of where they live, children should receive a high-quality education that prepares them for success in college and in a globally competitive economy;

WHEREAS, standards also help students and parents by setting clear and realistic goals for success as well as providing a roadmap from which all stakeholders, students, educators, and parents may work;

WHEREAS, legislators have a significant role to play in key components related to common core state standards, including assessment, improving pre-service teacher education programs, and creating data systems to determine which students are making gains.

WHEREAS, states need rigorous standards that are anchored in real-world demands students will face after high school, which are aligned to a K-12 curriculum, particularly rigorous grade-level expectations for mathematics and language arts, assessments, high school graduation requirements, college placement standards, and other related policy tools and practices; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to increase the number of young people who earn a post-secondary degree or certificate with value in the marketplace.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) encourages state policymakers and their membership to gain information about the common core state standards, increase their awareness of the implications that standards have for their respective state, and ensure collaboration with their state boards of education and state-level departments of instruction as the initiative unfolds.

Resolution Example 2: HHS-11-19, Supporting Increased Access to Quality Nutrition and Support for Infants and Children

WHEREAS, the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) maintains that it is essential for infants and children to be provided with the best nutritional start in life;

WHEREAS, NBCSL strongly supports issues pertaining to health care, health education, research, and the promotion of good health care policies with a view toward underserved communities;

WHEREAS, new evidence asserts that undernourishment between birth and the age of two causes irreversible damage;

WHEREAS, recent studies have demonstrated that malnourishment not only impedes children's physical and intellectual development in the short term, but also their cognitive abilities, impairing academic performance and work productivity into adulthood with measurable economic impacts;

WHEREAS, according to the International Journal of Obesity published in 2010, delayed introduction of solid feeding to the age of 6 months reduces child obesity at 10 years, and parental smoking may affect child obesity and overall early childhood health;

WHEREAS, the adverse health effects of early childhood malnutrition include stunting, wasting, anemia, blindness, and infectious diseases; contrarily, scientific research clearly shows that early and

proper nutrition is essential to children’s physical and cognitive development, supports good health, and normal growth;

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that the best early childhood nutrition for infants is breast milk, which promotes brain growth and prevents illnesses in the first few years of life;

WHEREAS, once a child is eating primarily solid foods, good early childhood nutrition in the U.S. is based on the food pyramid, including the recommended five servings of vegetables, six servings of grains, two servings of meat, and two servings of dairy daily;

WHEREAS, it is essential that parents and caregivers are provided with evidence-based information, quality nutrition education, and support that is culturally and linguistically appropriate to ensure an optimum quality of life for their infants and/or children, since many common health problems can be alleviated or prevented with a healthy diet;

WHEREAS, it is particularly important in areas devoid of nutritious foods, that parents have access to evidence-based nutrition education from registered and/or licensed dietitians on meal planning, food pricing, preparation, feeding, and safety;

WHEREAS, according to a report from the Department of Agriculture posted online by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on November 15, 2010, fourteen point seven percent (14.7%) of all U.S. households had difficulty getting enough to eat in 2009, illustrating the need for expanded nutrition programs for disadvantaged infants and children;

WHEREAS, Title V of the Social Security Act is one of the largest federal block grant programs to states as it leads the nation in ensuring the health of all mothers, infants, children, adolescents, and children with special health care needs;

WHEREAS, the NBCSL supports the Patient Protection and Affordable Care (PPAC) Act of 2010, which promotes proper health and nutrition, health risk and obesity reduction, and smoking cessation (all of which have profound effects on infant and child development and overall health);

WHEREAS, the PPAC Act will achieve its goals through increased funding for institutions and national organizations involved in improving infant and child health, such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) menu-labeling requirements and increased access to health/nutrition education and medical professionals (health educators, registered dietitians, nutritionists, counselors, nurses, etc.);

WHEREAS, the PPAC Act includes a provision to allow nursing mothers a reasonable break time to breast-feed their infants up to one year after birth; this will aid in the effort to provide proper and improved nutrition to the infants of our nation;

WHEREAS, the First Lady Michelle Obama has launched a public advocacy campaign called “Let’s Move” that seeks to improve nutrition for all infants and children, and to address both infant and child hunger and obesity;

WHEREAS, legislation called the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act has been introduced in cooperation with First Lady Michelle Obama’s efforts and this legislation has already passed the US Senate with large bi-partisan support and the support of Secretaries of Agriculture and Education;

WHEREAS, the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act provides \$4.5 billion over the next decade to expand eligibility for school meal programs for low-income children; increase funding for the Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC) to promote breastfeeding; establish nutrition standards for menu-planning and all foods sold in schools (including vending machines, school stores, snack bars, etc.); and provide a six-cent (\$0.06) increase for each school lunch to help cafeterias serve healthier meals in the form of more vegetables, fruits, balanced meals, increased availability of organic foods, and healthy food/drink alternatives; and

WHEREAS, the expanded coverage provided by the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act will automatically make children in state foster care systems or under court supervision eligible for free school meals as well as establish a pilot program to allow children who receive medical care under Medicaid to also receive free meals, and this effort would add 115,000 children to school meal programs by 2015, according to estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) recognizes the importance of nutritional education for infants and children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NBCSL urges states to develop and implement state- and community-based intervention programs to disseminate information about effective strategies as well as promote good nutrition and physical activity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NBCSL urges Congress to fully fund critical programs that support healthy infants and children such as the Child Care and Development Block Grant, the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, and the Title V Block Grant to States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NBCSL calls upon Congress to take no action to repeal or weaken the PPAC Act of 2010 (H.R. 3590);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NBCSL applauds the efforts of First Lady Michelle Obama and the “Let’s Move” campaign to improve the health of children in the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NBCSL applauds the passage of the Healthy, Hunger- Free Kids Act by the United States Senate and urges the United States House of Representatives to pass similar legislation to provide the resources to improve the health of all children;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Black Caucus of State Legislators also supports full funding of the PPAC Act and the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act and any provisions that will help our states to implement legislation, including flexibility measures for states so that state healthcare systems are able to adjust to changing implementation requirements; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.