

**2017 IAOHRA Conference
September 24 – 28
Seattle, Washington
Resolution**

Title: Gender Equity – a basic human right

Purpose: To ensure equity, access and basic rights for women and girls

Whereas: the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the most comprehensive international human rights treaty for women and often described as an international bill of rights for women, was adopted in 1979 by the United Nations General Assembly; and

Whereas: the United States was active in drafting CEDAW and President Jimmy Carter signed the treaty on July 17, 1980, within its first year; and

Whereas: the United States is one of only six UN member states that has not ratified CEDAW (Iran, Sudan, Somalia, Palau and Tonga); and

Whereas: the United States is the only industrialized country that has failed to ratify CEDAW, its credibility is compromised as a world leader in both human rights and women's rights; and

Whereas: although the treaty was transmitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in November 1980, CEDAW has never come before the full Senate for a vote on ratification; and

Whereas: almost 200 diverse national organizations support the ratification of CEDAW and participate in the national CEDAW Task Force convened by The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; and

Whereas: in 1998, San Francisco became the first city in the world to enact a local ordinance reflecting the principles of CEDAW, and, since then, other cities, including Los Angeles, Pittsburgh and Honolulu have adopted the principles of the global treaty locally; and

Whereas: in 2013, a unique public-private collaboration launched an effort called "Cities for CEDAW" to offer support to local communities to advance CEDAW principles to achieve gender equity, and the Women's Intercultural Network (WIN) created a platform, citiesforcedaw.org, for coalition communications and collaborations; and

Whereas: in 2014, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, representing over 1,400 mayors from across the country, adopted a resolution in support of the Cities for CEDAW Initiative at its Annual Meeting; and

Whereas: as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations has identified “achieving gender equity and empowering all women and girls” as a Sustainable Development Goal;

Whereas: The International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) goals are “to foster human and intergroup relations to enhance human rights practices under law, and to promote civil and human rights around the world”;

Therefore, be it resolved, that IAOHRA urges its members to support municipal, county and state-wide efforts to implement policies that affirm the rights of women, eliminate all forms of discrimination against women, advance gender equity and promote and affirm the principles of CEDAW.

Therefore, be it further resolved, that IAOHRA will prepare guidelines to assist Human Rights Commissions and government agencies to support local coalitions in adopting the principles of CEDAW or to initiate programs to seek gender equity.

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Resolution Supporting Statehood for Washington, DC

WHEREAS, there are currently more than 672,000 residents in Washington, DC, a population larger than the states of Wyoming and Vermont; and

WHEREAS, residents of Washington, DC are required to and do perform all the obligations of United States citizenship including serving in the military, serving on federal juries, and paying federal taxes; and

WHEREAS, residents of Washington, DC have been disenfranchised from electing voting representation in the United States House of Representative and United States Senate for 216 years; and

WHEREAS, residents of Washington, DC only regained the right to vote for President of the United States with the ratification of the 23rd Amendment to the United States Constitution on March 29, 1961; and

WHEREAS, 29,000 residents of Washington, DC are veterans yet do not have any voting members of Congress to represent them; and

WHEREAS, residents of Washington, DC paid more than \$26.4 billion in taxes in 2014, more than 22 states; and

WHEREAS, the government of Washington, DC has long demonstrated the capacity for self-government and financial responsibility, including high bond ratings and balanced budgets for the last 21 years; and

WHEREAS, Washington, DC operates as a city, county, and state government and already performs the tasks and duties assigned to states, including administering state health and human service programs, federal block grant programs, a Department of Motor Vehicles, an education system, transit and transportation systems, and public safety and homeland security duties; and

WHEREAS, Congress has total control over Washington, DC's policies, including the ability to overturn laws enacted by the District's duly-elected Council and passed by referendum with the support of majorities of residents; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Washington, DC have no voice over what wars are declared, how their federal tax contributions are spent, how their taxes are to be collected, and how any of the vital national issues affecting residents on a daily basis are to be resolved; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the ability to make changes to Washington, DC's spending of locally-raised dollars by inserting riders on DC's budget; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Washington, DC desire to become a full state, with full voting representation in Congress and full autonomy from Congress; and

WHEREAS, 86% of DC residents that cast votes supported the advisory referendum to demonstrate their desire for statehood on November 8, 2016; and

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) introduced H.R. 1291, the Washington, DC Admission Act, on March 1, 2017, which has a record 136 co-sponsors; and

WHEREAS, Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE) introduced S. 1278, the Washington, DC Admission Act, on May 25, 2017, which has 19 co-sponsors; and

WHEREAS, we support democracy for all residents in the United States of America;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that IAOHRA supports statehood for Washington, DC.

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Whereas, we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men and women are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and

Whereas, across our country, the words “We the People” are spoken not in the hushed whispers of a select few, but in the united and proud voice of every American from every background; and

Whereas, hate, racism and bigotry are an affront to the ideals of our nation and our collective conscience; and

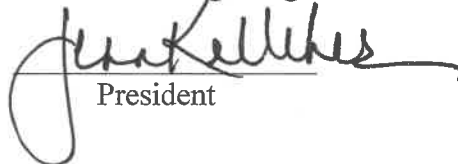
Whereas, IAOHRA members are fully committed to human rights, diversity and inclusiveness; and

Whereas, recognizing every person’s First Amendment right to freedom of speech, we are also dedicated to freedom from fear, and the same freedom of speech that allows even the most offensive views to be expressed also protects our right to condemn those views in the clearest and plainest language possible and to do so peacefully; and

Whereas, on Saturday, August 12, 2017, the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, experienced an act of domestic terrorism, fueled by pervasive messages of hate, racism and bigotry, that caused harm to many and resulted in the deaths of three individuals, Heather Heyer and Virginia State Police Trooper Lieutenant H. John “Jay” Cullen, III, and Trooper-Pilot Berke M.M. Bates; and

Whereas, the Mayor of the City of Charlottesville, Michael Signer, has strongly condemned this act of violence, issuing his message that the hateful actions of some cannot, and will not, divide us. Hate speech and threatening actions of white supremacists, neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan and the alt-right movement have no place in Virginia or in America;

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that IAOHRA will reaffirm our responsibility to ensure that each person within our jurisdictions is accorded equal protection under law; that we stand firmly with the City of Charlottesville, the victims’ families, and Americans throughout the nation in declaring that we remain steadfast, that hatred will not divide us, and that this time in our nation should be a time of healing, compassion, and building bridges of understanding.


President

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Whereas: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for undocumented immigrants who entered the United States before they turned 16 and has benefitted nearly 800,000 undocumented youth since it began in 2012.

Whereas: The ability for youth to live and work in their communities without fear of deportation is the foundation of sound, responsible immigration policy.

Whereas: With work authorization and without the fear of deportation, these young people have been able to participate in and contribute to our country, our cities and our economies.

Whereas: DACA is good for our nation's economy with 87 percent of DACA recipients employed by American businesses and six percent of DACA recipients having started their own businesses, leading to higher wages and better economic outcomes.

Whereas: DACA recipients contribute 15.3 percent of their wages to taxes, which fund Social Security and Medicare, and DACA recipients are investing in assets like houses, and starting new businesses, bringing significant tax revenue to cities and states.

Whereas: Ending this program would leave 800,000 young people who now call this nation home unsure of their legal status and would lead to the loss of \$0.9 billion in tax contributions over the next four years, the loss of at least \$3.4 billion from the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade.

Whereas: The Armed Forces rely on DACA applicants to serve through Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI), which enlists individuals who are fluent in critical languages or possess medical professional skills essential to the defense of our nation.

Whereas: DACA helps further domestic public safety — 90 percent of DACA recipients obtained a driver's license or state identification card, and 54 percent purchased cars after getting DACA, resulting in more insured and licensed drivers on American streets.

Whereas: The young people who entered this country before they were 16 who benefit from DACA, have significant bipartisan support.

Whereas: Fear that the program may be ended is causing uncertainty and fear that threatens the future of these young people who have come forward and entrusted the

government with their information.

Therefore, be it resolved, that IAOHRA urges its members to support efforts to preserve DACA.

Title: Doris R. Carbins

Purpose: to commend Doris R. Carbins for Outstanding Service to the Cause of Civil and Human Rights

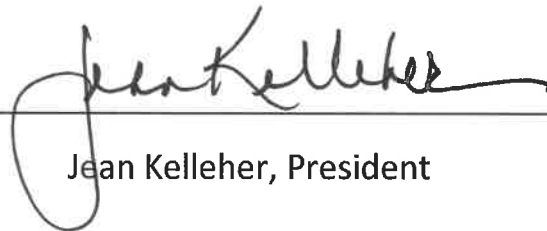
Whereas, the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA) is a professional association of over 140 state, county and local human relations commission in the United States of American and several statutory human rights agencies in Canada that has as its purpose and jurisdiction the elimination of discrimination; and,

Whereas, Doris R. Carbins retired as Executive Director of the Gary Human Relations Commission on December 29, 2016; and,

Whereas, Doris R. Carbins began her career with the Gary Human Relations Commission in October 1974 and held a series of progressively responsible positions to include Investigator, Backlog Supervisor/EOS and Deputy Director prior to her promotion to Executive Director.

Whereas, the Gary Human Relations Commission has been a member agency of IAOHRA and consistently supported IAOHRA; now therefore,

Therefore Be It Resolved that the members of IAOHRA hereby commend Doris R. Carbins for over forty years of outstanding service and commitment to the cause of civil and human rights and extends best wishes in her future endeavors.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jean Kelleher", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and includes a large loop at the beginning.

Jean Kelleher, President