

CHILDREN, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

SAVING LIVES THROUGH OVERDOSE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death in the United States, ahead of both motor vehicle crashes and firearms; and

WHEREAS, one hundred Americans die every day from overdoses; overdose deaths are more commonly due to prescription painkillers than any other drug category; and

WHEREAS, during the 2006-2010 period, overdose deaths involving heroin increased 45 percent and deaths involving opioid analgesics increased 21percent; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has classified prescription drug abuse as an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, heroin and prescription drug abuse affect every community in the country; and

WHEREAS, death from opioid overdose is preventable through the use of naloxone, a medication that reverses the respiratory depression that causes death from overdose; and

WHEREAS, naloxone can be a tool to guide people into recovery by helping people seek treatment; and

WHEREAS, naloxone is effective, affordable and safe, does not have serious side effects other than those associated with opioid withdrawal, works within minutes, is not addictive, cannot be abused, and has no psycho-pharmacological effects; and

WHEREAS, naloxone is currently administered by paramedics and emergency room personnel to treat opioid overdose, but could prevent far more deaths through widespread distribution to law enforcement and other first responders; and

WHEREAS, police departments across the country in communities large and small now provide officers with naloxone; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration approved a hand-held naloxone auto-injector specifically designed to simplify administration; and

WHEREAS, establishing emergency “Good Samaritan” laws to protect people who call 911 from prosecution would increase timely medical attention to overdose victims; and

WHEREAS, eighteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted “Good Samaritan” laws; and

WHEREAS, the National Drug Control Strategy acknowledges that drug problems are most effectively handled at the community level and the strategy emphasizes the importance of local, community based efforts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages cities to equip all first responders with naloxone and expand awareness and education efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the continued establishment of emergency “Good Samaritan” policies to encourage individuals to call 911 in the case of an overdose, without fear of prosecution.

Projected Cost: Unknown

BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK DAY

WHEREAS, 21 million public school students in the United States are fed during the school year through the National School Lunch Program, offering free or reduced price meals to students who would otherwise be unable to afford them; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program feeds students on only Monday through Friday, meaning that many of these students are hungry on the weekends; and

WHEREAS, hunger has both short and long-term negative effects on children's health, weakening immune systems, increasing hospitalization rates and impairing neural development; and

WHEREAS, there are strong ties between nutrition and academic achievement, therefore ensuring that no child goes hungry is especially critical during the school year; and

WHEREAS, Blessings in a Backpack – a 501(c)3 organization – provides food for elementary school children across America who otherwise have little or no food to eat on weekends during the school year; and

WHEREAS, better test scores, improved reading skills, positive behavior, improved health and increased attendance have been linked to students who are well-nourished seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, Blessings in a Backpack currently serves more than 66,000 students in 44 states and more than 1,300 cities across the country; and

WHEREAS, these Blessings in a Backpack programs are administered by volunteers in communities across the United States who fundraise, purchase food, stuff and deliver backpacks to students once a week,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the efforts of Blessings in a Backpack and other charitable organizations to help stop hunger amongst children in America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors has adopted Thursday, September 18, 2014 as “Blessings in a Backpack Day”, whereby mayors across the United States will participate in backpack-stuffing events, providing food for children in their communities who need it most.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CREATION OF A NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES

WHEREAS, the tragic effects of drug and alcohol addiction are negatively impacting residents in cities and towns across the country; and

WHEREAS, individuals struggling with addiction often experience homelessness, or incarceration for crimes related to their addiction; and

WHEREAS, opiate-related overdoses are steadily rising with the increased availability of cheap, highly-potent heroin and opiate prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, access to detox services, transitional programs, and safe sober housing do not adequately meet the increasingly high demand for services; and

WHEREAS, there are not enough preventative addiction education services for young people; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need for educational and employment training for individuals in early recovery; and

WHEREAS, research efforts by public and private entities have yet to comprehensively assess the scope of the national addiction problem, the quantity and quality of existing resources, or the areas with the largest service gaps,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recommends that the White House convene a National Task Force comprised of representatives from relevant federal agencies including ONDCP, SAMHSA, CDC, FDA, and DEA; along with Mayors; relevant state officials; community-based professionals and experts in the recovery field; foundations; universities; and people in recovery; to identify the gaps in recovery services, examine and share best practices, and make recommendations for action at the federal, state and local levels for the provision of prevention, treatment, social supports, and long-term care needed to keep residents in recovery from addiction healthy.

Projected Cost: Unknown

THE PRESIDENT'S EARLY LEARNING AGENDA

WHEREAS, President Obama outlined a comprehensive early learning agenda in his State of the Union Address, calling upon Congress and the Administration to expand access to high-quality early childhood programs such as Head Start, public pre-K, childcare, and private preschools; and

WHEREAS, participation in early learning programs will help children from all socioeconomic backgrounds to better realize their full potential by preventing achievement gaps and providing a strong foundation to improve their likelihood to succeed later in school and in life; and

WHEREAS, children three years and younger represent a critically important window for a child's academic, social, and cognitive development; and

WHEREAS, numerous economic studies have demonstrated that these programs are a smart public investment that can generate a significant return on investment for society with a rate of return of \$7 or more for each dollar invested through a reduced need for spending on other services, such as remedial education, grade repetition, and special education; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has invested in comprehensive improvements to state early learning systems through Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has taken steps to reform and improve Head Start services by implementing new accountability standards and focusing on school readiness results; and

WHEREAS, nearly one million children under the age of five benefit from Head Start services while the Administration seeks to expand those programs to additional children in vulnerable communities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has announced a proposed Federal investment in Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships through new competitive grants to support states and communities in expanding high quality, full-day early learning and development opportunities for infants and toddlers that meet the needs of working families and prepare children for the transition into preschool; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed the Preschool for All Initiative, in which the U.S. Department of Education would allocate dollars to states to distribute to local school districts and partners to implement preschool services for low- and moderate-income families,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports President Obama's early childhood education agenda and the Administration's investments in Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, and the Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to act upon President Obama's calls to expand access to early childhood education programs through the proposed Preschool for All Initiative.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF
DIVERSIFIED FARMING PRACTICES THAT PROMOTE A HEALTHY,
SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, the diversification of farmland, such as, crop rotation, a diversity of food-crop production, and value-added on-farm production, is critical to mitigate the risk to individual farmers of relying on one uniform crop; and

WHEREAS, crop rotation and the use of compost replenish soil nutrients that are vital to maximize yields while reducing reliance on artificial enhancers; and

WHEREAS, diversified farming practices, such as Integrated Pest Management approaches, can reduce the number of pesticide applications required and decrease the amount of pesticide residue on produce; and

WHEREAS, diversification promotes the utilization and maximization of existing farmland, key to combating deforestation, loss of native prairielands, and erosion, all symptoms of the ever-expanding footprint of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, diversification also includes the use of urban, peri-urban, and suburban land in close proximity to its users; and

WHEREAS, diversification encourages the production of food-crop for human consumption, especially in making balanced nutrition available to local and regional food economies, instead of production for fuel, animal feed, and international markets; and

WHEREAS, diversification has the potential to promote climate-responsible production, decreasing the amount of water and chemicals needed to stimulate uniform crops in all seasons; and

WHEREAS, diversification can positively impact food transportation systems, improving food access, and reducing highway congestion and greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, federal farm and food legislation historically provides large subsidies and aggressive crop insurance for corn, soybean, and other commodity crop production with little incentives or programs for diversified farming practices, especially fruits and vegetables production; and

WHEREAS, federal programs, such as the Healthy Food Financing Initiative (HFFI), should support projects that increase access to healthy, affordable food in underserved communities while expanding the demand for fresh, healthy food; and

WHEREAS, *MyPlate* standards, developed by the USDA and the Obama Administration, call for balanced, healthy diets for all Americans in order to combat the epidemic of obesity, and those standards should be reflected in farm and food legislation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges The President of the United States, the U.S. Congress, and other governmental bodies and organizations to develop and support policies and programs that encourage the development of diversified farmland which promotes a healthy, sustainable food production system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that the diversification of farmland is crucial to the nation's food security, support of local and regional food systems, and the health and wellness of individuals and the environment.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ENSURING VETERANS' ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, having put their lives on the line to secure our basic freedoms, our veterans deserve our recognition and our deepest gratitude for their selfless service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation bear the responsibility to honor our veterans, ensuring that they receive the benefits to which they are entitled, including timely, quality medical care in our communities; and

WHEREAS, it was widely reported in April that veterans seeking care at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital in Phoenix, AZ may have experienced excessive delays in receiving care, that as many as 40 veterans may have died from lack of treatment due to the delays; and that officials at the facility misreported patient wait times in the Electronic Waiting List system employed by all VA medical facilities in order to hide the actual longer wait times; and

WHEREAS, there had been similar reports of delayed care and other irregularities at other VA medical facilities across the country over the years, including General Accountability Office findings that excessive waiting times and manipulation of the system to hide them in "secret lists" had occurred and continued to occur; and

WHEREAS, in response to these allegations, the VA inspector general initiated an investigation at the Phoenix VA hospital as well as an audit of VA clinics nationwide, and Congress held (and continues to hold) oversight hearings on the allegations; and

WHEREAS, the VA inspector general reported in May that 1,700 veterans seeking treatment at the Phoenix VA hospital were "at risk of being lost or forgotten," and that at least 35 veterans died while awaiting treatment in Phoenix, although it could not be confirmed that all the deaths were attributable to long wait times for appointments (and subsequent investigation has reduced this number by about half, with most having contacted the VA for "end of life care"); and

WHEREAS, in May the VA launched an effort to identify veterans throughout the system who were experiencing waits that exceeded expectations for timeliness and to schedule them for care in VA clinics or to arrange for their care in the community; among other VA responses were a hiring freeze and suspension of performance awards for senior executives; and

WHEREAS, in June the VA reported that, based on an audit of more than 700 VA medical centers and outpatient clinics, the VA's 14-day appointment wait time target was unattainable given current service capacity, and 13 percent of VA scheduling staff had been instructed by supervisors or others to alter dates of appointments requested by veterans; the VA also reported that more than 57,000 new applicants for care have had to wait at least three months for initial appointments and an additional 64,000 newly-enrolled veterans who requested appointments never got them; and

WHEREAS, both the House and Senate have acted quickly to address the VA healthcare problems that have surfaced by passing similar bipartisan legislation – unanimously in the House, nearly unanimously in the Senate – that will, among other things, enable the VA to hire additional medical personnel and add a large number of new medical facilities, allow veterans to obtain private health care outside the VA system when necessary, and ease restrictions on the VA's ability to dismiss incompetent personnel; and

WHEREAS, because the VA health care system is the largest in the U.S., with 1,700 hospitals, clinics, and other facilities serving 8.5 million patients, and with a presence in cities of all sizes across the nation, its ability to provide quality medical and other services needed by all who qualify for them is a major concern of mayors who are ultimately responsible for the health and safety of all city residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the quick action taken by the Administration and Congress to identify the extent of the VA medical scheduling and service problems that have been identified and to pursue legislation that will both require and enable the VA to address these problems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to fully commit the resources that will be needed to implement all of the provisions of the VA health system legislation being finalized in Congress, and to equip the VA to ensure, in the years ahead, that all veterans receive the health care to which they are entitled, as needed and when needed.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO BUILDING AN EARLY LEARNING NATION BY THE YEAR 2025

WHEREAS, over the past 238 years major eras in the history of the United States have been frequently marked and recognized by the transference of scientific research, scientific breakthrough and scientific invention into the mainstream of daily life, leading in turn to new growth, enhanced opportunities and innovative change; and

WHEREAS, social researchers and sociologists are identifying babies born between 2010 and 2025 as ‘Generation Alpha,’ and are claiming this generation will be the most formally educated generation in history, beginning school earlier and studying for longer than those from previous generations; and

WHEREAS, Generation Alpha members will be second only to the Baby Boomer generation in population numbers, consisting of more than 70 million children aged between birth to 15 in the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the latest neuroscience research into child development clearly shows the profound and lasting benefits of every day and in-the-moment interactions between parent or caregiver and child, and that these parent or caregiver/child interactions require no expensive purchases of toys or equipment to achieve these benefits; and

WHEREAS, scientific research clearly shows positive parenting and caregiving in early childhood, starting at birth, is a key contributor to lifelong health and productivity; and

WHEREAS, advances in neuroscience, developmental psychology and prevention science provide compelling evidence that the foundation for health or disease is established in early childhood; and

WHEREAS, these scientific advances show it is possible for children to achieve their potential as a result of parent and child interactions in the critical brain development years of birth to three; and

WHEREAS, high quality early learning in the critical years from birth to three has been proven to reduce placements in special education, reduce grade retention, boost graduation rates, decrease teen pregnancy rates, reduce violent crime, juvenile delinquency and incarceration, and increases the odds of long-term employment; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to providing unparalleled opportunities for the children of Generation Alpha so they do not become part of a ‘lost generation,’ making this an imperative of moral and national urgency to provide early learning for all children, particularly in the critical brain-building years from birth to three, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a movement committed to engaging every community and particularly parents and caregivers in daily brain-building moments with their children, while highlighting the ease and developmental importance supported by the latest scientific research of these conversational moments between adult and child; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports designating the decade of 2015 – 2025 as an era of community focus in building an Early Learning Nation so, in turn, the children of Generation Alpha emerge equipped and prepared to resolve issues, assume leadership positions, while generating innovative and long-term solutions for previously intractable and seemingly unsolvable challenges.

Projected Cost: Unknown

UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS AS A MEANS OF ELIMINATING INCOME-BASED ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

WHEREAS, 40 percent of children ages 3 to 5 are not enrolled in child care, preschool, or kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, 35-45 percent of American schoolchildren are poorly prepared to succeed in school at kindergarten entry; and

WHEREAS, unequal access and quality of childcare and early childhood education programs produces a disparity in student learning and development which further contributes to achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, childcare and early childhood education programs that are universally accessible create an opportunity to raise children's developmental proficiencies and their capacity to have lifelong success in the education system; and

WHEREAS, exposure to high-quality childcare and early childhood education programs can boost social, moral, physical and cognitive development, among children from low-income families; and

WHEREAS, investment in early childhood education programs for low income children from birth to age five reduces special education enrollment, grade retention, and behavioral problems; and

WHEREAS, investment in early childhood education programs for low income children from birth to age five increases high school graduate rates, earnings in adulthood and mental health; and

WHEREAS, every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education produces a seven to ten percent annual return on investment; and

WHEREAS, effective preschool programs produce strong academic and social gains for all children, even though gains for low-income children are larger,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S Conference of Mayors supports increasing funding for high-quality early childhood education and childcare programs that are universally accessible and supports and advocates for the inclusion of Pre-K funding as part of K-12 funding formulas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges Cities and Independent School Districts/Schools to create universally accessible childcare and early childhood education programs within their municipality that:

- Are designed to be accessible to all children, particularly children from low-income families, children of working parents, English Language Learners, children of color and at-risk youth; and
- Use rigorous program standards that have been set in conjunction with the local childcare planning council or State Department of Education in order to monitor and assess program quality, ongoing program effectiveness and improvements in student achievement; and
- Integrates multiple preschool providers in order to support a comprehensive early childhood education network including: Head Start programs, private child care centers, and state preschool providers; and
- Offers subsidies to participating early childhood education and childcare providers for facility improvements in order to better their physical learning environments; and
- Facilitate professional development opportunities for staff members in order to provide them with the means to gain further credentials and additional skills; and
- Foster collaborative partnerships between the private early childhood education providers, school districts, counties / parishes, and state government; and
- Have the Mayor play a significant leadership role in the programs creation, expansion and continuation; and
- Leverage matching funds and draws upon a variety of public and private funding sources in order to ensure fiscal sustainability, such as: Development impact fees, Head Start, state preschool, county / parish funding, and foundation grants.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**INCREASE AWARENESS OF INFLUENZA VACCINATION
COVERAGE DISPARITIES WITHIN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN,
AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE AND LATINO
COMMUNITIES**

WHEREAS, for the last 30 years the severity of the influenza seasons has differed substantially year-to-year with a low of 3,000 to a high of 49,000; and

WHEREAS, each year in the United States on average 5 to 20 percent of the population can be infected with the flu, more than 20,000 people may be hospitalized during the flu season; and

WHEREAS, the African American (33.4%), American Indians (42.1%) and Latino (29.4%) communities continue to have lower vaccination rates in comparison to the general population; and

WHEREAS, African Americans, American Indians/Alaska Natives and Latinos can adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors that include annual flu vaccination and management of chronic health conditions to minimize health complications that impact the physical and economic well-being of an entire community; and

WHEREAS, the National Influenza Vaccination Disparities Partnership was launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention specifically to address flu-related health disparities within African American, American Indian/Alaska Native and Latino communities and to promote annual flu vaccinations for everyone six months and older,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors, hereby proclaims the influenza season for 2014-2015 to be a concern of nationwide importance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that city officials urge all citizens to participate in local flu vaccinations drives and promotional activities planned here forth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that city officials in the United States will use social media platforms and engage local health jurisdictions to increase awareness of influenza vaccination coverage disparities within the African American, American Indian/Alaska Native and Latino communities.

Projected Costs: Unknown

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

SUPPORT FOR CDBG

WHEREAS, CDBG provides vital funding and flexibility to address local needs in the areas of community and economic development, housing infrastructure and vital public services; and

WHEREAS, over 1,200 communities rely on CDBG as a direct source of annual funding; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 7,250 local governments nationally have access to CDBG funds reaching rural, urban, and suburban areas; and

WHEREAS, CDBG helps create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses; and

WHEREAS, since FY2010, funding for CDBG has been cut by over \$1 billion while the need for these important resources at the local level has continued to grow; and

WHEREAS, for every \$1.00 of CDBG funding invested in a project another \$4.05 is leveraged from other sources; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1974, CDBG has leveraged nearly \$400 billion in other resources for community development and affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, between FY2005-FY2013 CDBG created or retained 330,546 local jobs; and

WHEREAS, between FY2005-FY2013 CDBG has assisted over one million low- and moderate-income homeowners rehabilitate their homes, provided down payment and closing cost assistance to qualified home buyers, and assisted homeowners through lead-based paint abatement; and

WHEREAS, between FY2005-FY2013, CDBG public improvements benefitted over 33 million low- and moderate-income people nationwide through projects such as senior centers, child care centers, group homes for persons with disabilities, shelters for victims of domestic violence and homeless veterans, health clinics providing vaccinations and dental care to low-income children, sanitary water and sewer systems, safe streets, and improved drainage systems, and others; and

WHEREAS, between FY2005-FY2013 CDBG has provided public services such as employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services to help abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, among others to over 105 million low-and moderate income households nationwide; and

WHEREAS, CDBG is an important resource in preventing homelessness as well as reducing chronic and veterans homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Administration would reduce CDBG formula funding to \$2.8 billion in FY2015; and

WHEREAS, the FY2015 Budget proposes to amend the Community Development Block Grant statute to include a funding threshold of approximately \$350,000 for communities to receive formula funding directly from HUD and it would eliminate the "grandfathering" of metropolitan cities and urban counties who fall below the population level at which they initially qualified; and

WHEREAS, approximately 340 cities would lose direct funding under the minimum threshold reform, and on-going programs would be seriously disrupted under the grandfathering reform,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports CDBG formula funding for FY2015 at least at \$3.3 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors is opposed to the CDBG minimum funding threshold reform and the elimination of grandfathering proposed in the FY2015 Federal Budget.

Projected Cost: \$3.3 billion

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF PUBLIC USE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides local government officials the flexibility and funding to be able to address unique economic development, infrastructure and vital public service needs; and

WHEREAS, local governments have faced immense budgetary pressures in recent years following the economic downturn, but must still carry out activities to ensure the well-being of communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments depend upon flexibility from the CDBG program in this time of economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, since FY2006 there has been a provision (section 726) within the Housing and Urban Development appropriation bills unnecessarily restricting the use of Federal funds to support any Federal, state or local project that seeks to use the power of eminent domain; and

WHEREAS, the section 726 provision has greatly limited the use of CDBG and other Federal funds in projects that would provide communities the economic and public safety benefits of eliminating blighted and vacant structures as part of a redevelopment process when some form of private benefit could be an end result of the project; and

WHEREAS, mixed-use developments which are essential to urban efforts to revitalize neighborhoods, combine residential uses with one or more other uses such as office, retail, civic, entertainment, or even manufacturing may raise section 726 provision concerns; and

WHEREAS, a recent Brookings Institution study found that from 2000 to 2010 the number of vacant housing units nationally had increased by 4.5 million, or 44 percent, and a report by the University of California, Berkeley, determined that over the past 15 years, 130 cities, most with relatively small populations, have dissolved themselves, representing more than half the total ever recorded in the United States; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the Nation's 20 largest cities in 1950 have lost at least one-third of their populations, and since 2000, a number of cities, including Baltimore, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Buffalo, have lost around 10 percent; Cleveland has lost more than 17 percent; and more than 25 percent of residents have left Detroit, and

WHEREAS, the result of cities facing large-scale losses of residents has produced compressed tax bases, increased crime and unemployment, tight municipal budgets and abandoned neighborhoods,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to amend the section 726 provision within future HUD appropriation authorization bills to allow cities with high percentages of blighted structures to use Community Development Blocks Grants for economic redevelopment projects in partnership with private developers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support flexibility and local control by raising the CDBG public service cap from 15 percent to 25 percent for all entitlement communities to address public service needs.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORT FOR THE HOME PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program has been vital for housing low-income families for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, over 600 local and state governments receive HOME funds; and

WHEREAS, since 1992, HOME has created over one million units of decent, safe, affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, more than 50% of HOME funds have been used to assist very-low income and extremely low-income households; and

WHEREAS, for every \$1.00 dollar of HOME investment, another \$4.00 in public and private resources is leveraged; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 million in HOME funds creates or preserves approximately 18 jobs; and

WHEREAS, HOME has been drastically cut from a funding level of \$1.8 billion in FY10 to \$1 billion in FY14; and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposed reducing HOME to \$950 million in its FY2015 budget, and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development approved cutting the program to \$700 million in FY2015,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to fund the HOME program in FY2015 to at least \$1.2 billion.

Projected Cost: \$1.2 billion

**SUPPORT FULL FUNDING FOR THE
NATIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND (NHTF) AND CAPITAL
MAGNET FUND (CMF)**

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are committed to providing economic growth and opportunity within their cities; and

WHEREAS, a key element to a competitive economy is the ability of workers to have access to affordable housing within commuting distance of their job and with access to good schools, parks, hospitals, grocery stores and other amenities; and

WHEREAS, the Harvard Joint Center on Housing studies found that, in 2011 42.3 million households, or 37 percent, faced housing cost burdens, paying more than 30 percent of pre-tax income on housing costs, including 20.6 million households (17.9 percent) with severe cost burdens, paying more than 50 percent of pre-tax income for housing; and

WHEREAS, between 2001 and 2011, the number of households paying more than half their income in housing costs increased by 6.7 million—a 49 percent increase; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the annual Housing Wage – the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a decent two-bedroom rental home at HUD-estimated Fair Market Rent (FMR) while spending no more than 30% of income on housing costs is \$18.92 – is more than two-and-a-half times the federal minimum wage and 52% higher than it was in 2000; and

WHEREAS, in no state can a full-time minimum wage worker afford a one-bedroom or a two-bedroom rental unit at FMR; and

WHEREAS, for every 100 extremely low income renter households (households below 30% of Area Median Income) in the United States, there are only 30 affordable and available units; and

WHEREAS, homeownership rates have dropped for eight consecutive years, disproportionately penalizing minorities and working families thereby exacerbating social inequality and stratification; and

WHEREAS, the need for capital investments to address affordability challenges are common to mayors nationwide, whatever the local real estate market--whether such capital is needed to address blight and rehabilitate existing stock in so-called 'loose' markets, or to construct and preserve affordable housing in markets where residential real estate costs are skyrocketing; and

WHEREAS, Congress created the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) and Capital Magnet Fund (CMF) – under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) – to address a critical lack of rental housing and to support homeownership for low income households; and

WHEREAS, HERA anticipated that the NHTF and CMF would be capitalized in part by contributions from profits earned by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, but such contributions have been suspended indefinitely by the Federal Housing Finance Administration (FHFA), leaving both programs without consistent funding; and

WHEREAS, the NHTF will, once capitalized, provide communities with funds to build, preserve, and rehabilitate rental homes that are affordable for extremely and very low income households as well as provide working families with homeownership opportunities; and

WHEREAS, due to the lack of contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the CMF received an \$80 million dollar appropriation in fiscal year 2010 in order to jumpstart the program and demand proved to be extraordinary, attracting 230 applications requesting over \$1 billion total (including \$467 million that was deemed to be from "highly qualified" applicants); and

WHEREAS, a recent report by the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) within the Department of the Treasury shows this investment to be performing beyond expectations; and

WHEREAS, the NHTF and CMF also assist with making homeownership affordable through production, preservation, and rehabilitation of housing for homeownership, including down payment assistance, closing cost assistance, and assistance for interest rate buy-downs; and

WHEREAS, further funding for the NHTF and CMF promises to help address the critical lack of rental housing across the nation and make homeownership a more achievable goal for America's working families,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to fully fund the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) and Capital Magnet Fund (CMF) as part of comprehensive housing finance reform legislation.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDING SECURITY SERVICES AND OTHER COSTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are committed to preserving and strengthening low-income neighborhoods within their cities; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with the federal government, cities and local housing authorities have invested considerable resources to transform distressed public housing developments into high-quality affordable housing in mixed-income communities; and

WHEREAS, cities and their local housing authorities have also attracted hundreds of millions of dollars in private financing in such communities through loans and equity investments; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to the success and sustainability of such communities and to the quality of life for residents of all income levels to ensure a high level of safety and security that protects both people and property; and

WHEREAS, the pursuit of economic self-sufficiency by low-income families through providing job training, educational opportunities and other supportive services is also essential to the revitalization of low-income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, local housing authorities historically have had the flexibility to use their federal capital fund subsidies to ensure safety and security by funding security guards and above-baseline police services and to promote self-sufficiency by funding supportive service programs; and

WHEREAS, recent rule changes by the federal government now reduce funding flexibility and prohibit local housing authorities from using capital fund subsidies for ongoing security or resident services costs; and

WHEREAS, these rule changes threaten to undermine the stability and investment made in revitalized public housing communities; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long promoted an agenda that would support sustainable neighborhood revitalization and economic opportunity for low-income families,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby respectfully urges Congress to:

- Restore the ability of local housing authorities to use their capital subsidies flexibly to fund ongoing safety and security costs and resident services programs to support self-sufficiency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors is prepared to work with the Administration and Congress to further address the revitalization of low-income neighborhoods in our nation's cities.

Projected Cost: None

THE PROMISE ZONE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, President Obama launched the Promise Zone Initiative to help communities with high concentrations of poverty to bolster local revitalization efforts in order to ensure that hard work leads to a decent living for every American in every community; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's intensive partnerships with local stakeholders will better enable communities to implement economic and community development strategies with federal support and coordination at the local level; and

WHEREAS, local leadership in Promise Zone communities will focus on creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities, increasing access to quality, affordable housing and reducing violent crime; and

WHEREAS, Promise Zone communities will receive priority consideration and preferred access to federal programs and resources within the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Agriculture to supplement local efforts as they work toward their goals; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed tax cuts on hiring and investment in areas designated as Promise Zones to attract businesses and create jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Administration selected five communities to receive the designation in the first round last year, including the City of San Antonio, TX; the City of Los Angeles, CA; the City of Philadelphia, PA; Southeastern Kentucky; and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the Administration plans to designate fifteen more communities over the next three years, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced that the Administration will broaden its eligibility criteria for selecting those new communities in these next rounds of designation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Administration for Promise Zone Initiative and supports its plan to designate an additional fifteen communities using broadened criteria in the next three rounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to take action and enact President Obama's Promise Zone tax incentive proposal.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE SECTION 108 AND OTHER HUD LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2014, the House of Representatives approved an amendment that would essentially eliminate the Section 108 Guaranteed Loan program, which allows local governments across the nation leverage critical Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding; and

WHEREAS, the amendment is written so broadly that it could apply to loans and mortgages made the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Ginnie Mae, and other HUD loan programs that support the development and preservation of affordable rental housing for families and seniors; and

WHEREAS, because federal loans may be leveraged with other federal grant funding—including HOME Investment Partnership (HOME), Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), down payment assistance, housing repair grants, and Section 8 Rental Assistance—this amendment could essentially eliminate or dramatically curtail these programs; and

WHEREAS, under the program, communities can apply for Section 108 Guaranteed Loans for up to 5 times their most recent CDBG award; and

WHEREAS, Section 108 loans serve as critical gap financing, build investor confidence, and attract private capital to economically distressed areas:

- Since 1977, HUD has issued 1,898 commitments totaling approximately \$9.2 billion. In 2013, HUD issued \$231 million in Section 108 Guaranteed Loans, which led directly to the creation of 4,446 jobs.
- Under the program, each dollar of Section 108 loans can leverage \$4.62 of additional financing.
- To date, *not a single Section 108 loan* has defaulted and resulted in a loss to HUD.
- The program provides local governments with enormous flexibility in deciding how to best deploy this financing and which economic development, housing, and public facilities projects are most-needed.

WHEREAS, there are \$2.1 billion in Section 108 loans currently outstanding, backed by current and future CDBG allocations to states and localities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, to prevent communities from losing one of the most successful sources of gap financing, The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Senate to reject a similar amendment that may be proposed to the Fiscal Year 2015 (FY15) Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) Appropriations bill; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Congress should reject any future amendments that would eliminate or limit the Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CRIMINAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

THE COPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of the enactment of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program and the 15th anniversary of President Bill Clinton's announcement that the Program had funded the 100,000 additional officers it had promised; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the COPS Program was a top priority for The United States Conference of Mayors 20 years ago and continuation of the program at sufficient funding levels has remained a top priority for the organizations ever since; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice and its Office of Community Policing Services has done a superb job of administering the COPS Program, maximizing the funding available and providing it to local police departments in an effective and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, since 1994 the COPS Program has:

- invested nearly \$14 billion to add community policing officers to the nation's streets, enhance crime fighting technology, support crime prevention initiatives, and provide training and technical assistance to help advance community policing; and
- funded approximately 125,000 additional officers in more than 13,000 of the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country, in jurisdictions large and small; and
- trained nearly 700,000 law enforcement personnel, community members, and government leaders through COPS Program-funded training organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2014 COPS Hiring Program will support community policing strategies to reduce homicide and gun violence, to build community trust, to protect the public and the nation's critical infrastructure, and to hire School Resource Officers to ensure the safety of children and educators; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2014 Community Policing Development Program will address critical topics in the law enforcement field by building on the principles of community policing and supporting the development of innovative strategies, demonstration projects, research, guidebooks, and best practices; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Program has gone well beyond providing law enforcement agencies with these badly needed additional police officers, as important as that was, and has fundamentally changed policing in America's cities by instituting community policing practices in departments large and small across the nation; and

WHEREAS, in our cities today, mayors and police chiefs understand and appreciate the police-community partnership forged by community policing – how it works to prevent crime and reduce the atmosphere of fear which crime creates, how it earns the trust of the community and involves residents in achieving their own safety, and how it enables police officers to better understand and address both the needs of the community and the factors that contribute to crime; and

WHEREAS, in a 2005 report, the Government Accountability Office found that “as a demonstration of whether a federal program can affect crime through hiring officers and changing policing practices, the evidence indicates that COPS contributed to declines in crime above the levels of declines that would have been expected without it,”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors once again reaffirms its strong support for the COPS Program and urges Congress to provide at a minimum the funding level for FY 2015 requested by the President; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the COPS Office for its 20 years of working to advance community policing and to address the needs of state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies.

Projected Cost: Unknown

FEDERAL FUNDING FOR SMART POLICING

WHEREAS, local public safety continues to be challenged by the need to reduce the cost of operations and at the same time improve performance; and

WHEREAS, evidence-based practices have shown that community involvement combined with data driven strategies are essential to addressing local crime issues; and

WHEREAS, Smart Policing is a data-driven, evidence-based approach to effectively and economically resolve specific crime issues within a community through enhanced analysis of crime data, strategic deployment of resources, and strengthened partnerships within the community; and

WHEREAS, Smart Policing leads to measurable benefits to jurisdictions, including faster response times; more efficient repositioning, deployment and management of resources and, ultimately, cost savings; reduced errors; more accurate and frequent performance monitoring and evaluation; increased accountability and easier sharing of best practices; and the ability to leverage information from outside sources, in real-time, including information from the public domain; and

WHEREAS, the continual links between traditional community policing models and the need to support Smart Policing initiatives requires not only political and department commitment but also technological investment and sustainment; and

WHEREAS, while new and promising technologies for Smart Policing exist, it is imperative that federal grant dollars be available to support them to reduce crime at the local level,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports current efforts by the U.S. Department of Justice to evaluate and promote Smart Policing and urges it to explore additional ways to help cities to deploy Smart Policing technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President to include in his FY2016 Budget Request and Congress to provide funding for increased funding for Smart Policing initiatives, including deployment of new technologies that will help keep cities safer and enable more efficient law enforcement operations.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SMART CRIMINAL JUSTICE ALTERNATIVES

WHEREAS, the President’s National Drug Control Strategy outlines a public health and public safety approach to drug policy; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration is promoting a “smart on crime” approach using innovative criminal justice reforms including risk assessment tools, diversion programs, evidence-based community supervision models, in-custody treatment, and reentry services to break the cycle of drug use, crime, arrest, and incarceration; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Care Act makes access to treatment a new reality for millions of Americans as it ends discrimination by requiring insurance companies to cover treatment for substance use disorders, expanding treatment and reentry services for those in the justice system and targeting expansion of care for populations with an unmet need for substance abuse treatment; and

WHEREAS, as demonstrated by passage of the Fair Sentencing Act and support of the Smarter Sentencing Act, the Administration is committed to revisiting mandatory minimum sentencing; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration, through its “Smart on Crime” Initiative, revised Federal charging policy and developed criteria for diverting individuals with federal non-violent drug offenses away from incarceration to community-based supervision, treatment, and other services; and

WHEREAS, drug courts are a proven alternative to incarceration for justice-involved individuals with substance use disorders and have been a model for the development of other types of front-end diversionary programs and strategies, such as drug market interventions, prosecutorial diversion, and community courts; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is making strides in eliminating barriers to reentry and recovery, addressing federal collateral consequences, providing treatment in federal reentry centers, and supporting reentry measures at the local level; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration is working with mayors across the country to stop the school-to-prison pipeline through several administration-wide initiatives such as My Brother’s Keeper, the National Youth Violence Prevention Forum, and the Zero Tolerance School Discipline project; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to address disproportions and instill fairness in the system, the Obama Administration has established a new initiative to encourage individuals incarcerated for federal non-violent drug offenses to seek clemency and has issued new guidelines for compassionate release,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages Mayors to support the Obama Administration's drug policy reform goals to implement smart on crime approaches to divert individuals away from the criminal justice system, reduce incarceration, and make the system more effective and fair.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SAVING LIVES THROUGH OVERDOSE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, drug overdose is the leading cause of injury death in the United States, ahead of both motor vehicle crashes and firearms; and

WHEREAS, one hundred Americans die every day from overdoses and overdose deaths are more commonly due to prescription painkillers than any other drug category; and

WHEREAS, during the 2006-2010 period, overdose deaths involving heroin increased 45 percent and deaths involving opioid analgesics increased 21 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has classified prescription drug abuse as an epidemic; and

WHEREAS, heroin and prescription drug abuse affect every community in the country; and

WHEREAS, death from opioid overdose is preventable through the use of naloxone, a medication that reverses the respiratory depression that causes death from overdose; and

WHEREAS, naloxone can be a tool to guide people into recovery by helping people seek treatment; and

WHEREAS, naloxone is effective, affordable and safe, does not have serious side effects other than those associated with opioid withdrawal, works within minutes, is not addictive, cannot be abused, and has no psycho-pharmacological effects; and

WHEREAS, naloxone is currently administered by paramedics and emergency room personnel to treat opioid overdose, but could prevent far more deaths through widespread distribution to law enforcement and other first responders; and

WHEREAS, police departments across the country in communities large and small now provide officers with naloxone; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration approved a hand-held naloxone auto-injector specifically designed to simplify administration; and

WHEREAS, establishing emergency “Good Samaritan” laws to protect people who call 911 from prosecution would increase timely medical attention to overdose victims; and

WHEREAS, eighteen states and the District of Columbia have enacted “Good Samaritan” laws; and

WHEREAS, the National Drug Control Strategy acknowledges that drug problems are most effectively handled at the community level and the strategy emphasizes the importance of local, community based efforts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages cities to equip all first responders with naloxone and expand awareness and education efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the continued establishment of emergency “Good Samaritan” policies to encourage individuals to call 911 in the case of an overdose, without fear of prosecution.

Project Cost: Unknown

CREATION OF A NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON ADDICTION RECOVERY SERVICES

WHEREAS, the tragic effects of drug and alcohol addiction are negatively impacting residents in cities and towns across the country; and

WHEREAS, individuals struggling with addiction often experience homelessness, or incarceration for crimes related to their addiction; and

WHEREAS, opiate-related overdoses are steadily rising with the increased availability of cheap, highly-potent heroin and opiate prescription drugs; and

WHEREAS, access to detox services, transitional programs, and safe sober housing do not adequately meet the increasingly high demand for services; and

WHEREAS, there are not enough preventative addiction education services for young people; and

WHEREAS, there is a great need for educational and employment training for individuals in early recovery; and

WHEREAS, research efforts by public and private entities have yet to comprehensively assess the scope of the national addiction problem, the quantity and quality of existing resources, or the areas with the largest service gaps,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recommends that the White House convene a National Task Force comprised of representatives from relevant federal agencies including ONDCP, SAMHSA, CDC, FDA, and DEA; along with Mayors; relevant state officials; community-based professionals and experts in the recovery field; foundations; universities; and people in recovery; to identify the gaps in recovery services, examine and share best practices, and make recommendations for action at the federal, state and local levels for the provision of prevention, treatment, social supports, and long-term care needed to keep residents in recovery from addiction healthy.

Projected Cost: Unknown

COMBATTING COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE DEMAND ENFORCEMENT AND PREVENTION

WHEREAS, the nation’s mayors are committed to public safety, health and well-being, and economic growth within their cities; and

WHEREAS, commercial sexual exploitation – which includes sex trafficking – is growing throughout the U.S., thriving in cities across geographic and socio-demographic variability, significantly threatening the safety and well-being of the children and vulnerable adults being purchased, families of buyers and the buyers themselves, legitimate businesses, and our communities; and

WHEREAS, up to 300,000 of our nation’s children are at risk of being commercially sexually exploited each year, often coming from the foster care system, with thirteen being the average age a girl enters prostitution; and

WHEREAS, the industry is especially harmful for those being purchased, with the majority of women in prostitution fitting the federal definition of being “trafficked” and wanting to leave if they felt they had alternative choices for survival or didn’t fear retribution by pimps; and

WHEREAS, criminal syndicate, gang, and drug dealer involvement in prostitution within and among cities is increasing nationwide, with pimps making \$260,000-\$1,700,000/year; and

WHEREAS, sex buyers drive the entire illegal sex industry, with so-called “johns” constituting 15 percent of the US adult male population; with the majority having partners and “high-frequency sex buyers” earning on average \$120,000/year; and

WHEREAS, it is illegal to purchase sex in the United States (except in six counties in Nevada), yet prostituted individuals are arrested at a nationwide rate double that of those buying (with the rate in some cities being as high 10:1, seller to buyer), while pimps perceive any criminal intervention as “low risk;” and

WHEREAS, there is a growing body of evidence that targeting sex buyers is a pragmatic, effective way to dry up the commercial sex industry; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of purchased sex is brokered online, with nearly 45,000 new ads posted each week in the escort services section just of backpage.com, where young girls are being advertised; and

WHEREAS, doctors and health professionals assembled by the Institute of Medicine issued *Confronting Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking of Minors in the United States*, which suggests “a particular emphasis on deterring demand;” and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting safe and healthy cities, upholding the rule of law, and over the years has taken strong positions against human trafficking and in support of efforts to combat it, and many mayors have worked hard in their communities to reduce commercial sexual exploitation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby respectfully urges Congress to swiftly pass the bipartisan Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act (S. 1738/H.R. 3530); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors is prepared to work with the Administration and Congress to combat commercial sexual exploitation of our children and vulnerable adults, and mitigate the associated public safety, economic, and health risks to our nation’s cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration to incorporate demand reduction as a primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention strategy in the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Trafficking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all anti-trafficking strategies are survivor-informed and are comprehensive, holding sex buyers and pimps accountable, while providing exit strategies and options for prostituted individuals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that training and resources be available to local governments and the criminal justice system to stop and deter sex buyers through arrest and prosecution, fines, fees, and penalty assessments that match the severity of the crime, and programs to change sex buyers’ behavior long-term (such as so-called “john schools”) through federal and state law and city ordinances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages research projects evaluating the effectiveness of demand-related programs and activities, and that furthers greater understanding of the extent of the commercial sex industry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the development and implementation of age-appropriate prevention and education programs about the risks and harms of the commercial sex industry and anti-demand messaging to be incorporated into middle school and high-school curricula, in faith-based organizations, youth programs, and healthy masculinities programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of The United States Conference of Mayors hold themselves and their employees to the highest ethical standards and promote a shift in the culture of tolerance toward purchasing a human being for sex.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN SALES

WHEREAS, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is an effective tool to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous individuals, and since its inception the background check system has blocked over 2 million gun sales to people who were prohibited from possessing guns; and

WHEREAS, despite this success, the system is undermined by legal loopholes and missing records that enable too many dangerous individuals to obtain weapons they later use in crimes; and

WHEREAS, the illegal trafficking of crime guns is often connected with illegal drug patterns ravaging our communities; and

WHEREAS, in the United States an estimated 40 percent of all gun transfers take place with no background check of the buyer, including sales online and at gun shows; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that state and federal agencies have failed to report hundreds of thousands of records of persons with dangerous mental illness into the NICS database, and 12 states have each submitted fewer than 100 mental health records; and

WHEREAS, legislation is proposed that would give states and certain covered entities added flexibility to ensure accurate but limited information is reported to NICS; and

WHEREAS, every day, 86 Americans are killed with guns; and

WHEREAS, evidence shows that background checks save lives, as evidenced by the facts that in 16 states that already require background checks for unlicensed handgun sales, gun trafficking is 48 percent lower than in states that fail to require background checks for all gun sales; the rate of women murdered by an intimate partner with a gun was 38 percent lower than in other states; and the firearm suicide rate was 49 percent lower than in other states; and

WHEREAS, a CBS News poll in December of 2013, reported that 85 percent of adults nationwide, including 84 percent of gun owners, support "a federal law requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers;" and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has been a strong advocate for common-sense policies that keep guns out of dangerous hands while respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners, and this Conference has long called for actions to close deadly gaps in NICS,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges passage of important public safety legislation in Congress which would require a background check for every gun sale and which would also increase the reporting of mental health and other relevant records into the NICS database.

Projected Cost: Unknown

GUN INDUSTRY BEST PRACTICES

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has been a strong advocate for common-sense policies that keep guns out of dangerous hands while supporting Second Amendment rights and respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners; and

WHEREAS, more than 12,000 Americans are murdered with guns every year, and the overwhelming majority of these crimes are committed by individuals who are barred from purchasing or possessing guns under federal law; and

WHEREAS, local governments bear the financial toll of gun violence committed by individuals barred from purchasing or possessing guns under federal law; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms and Explosives, criminals often obtain guns from federally licensed dealers through theft or through other illegal means; and

WHEREAS, responsible practices by gun manufacturers and distributors help to prevent guns from falling into criminal hands, thus helping to reduce the incidence of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, local governments, because of law enforcement department firearms purchases, are nationally one of the largest purchasers of guns; and

WHEREAS, local law enforcement departments, because of their relationships with gun vendors, are uniquely positioned to promote these gun industry best practices,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors identifies gun industry best practices as a critical public safety issue of concern to mayors and cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors support efforts by mayors and cities across the nation to promote gun industry best practices, such as regular gun inventory checks, employee background checks, employee responsibility training focused on deterring illegal purchasers, and proper securing of firearms.

Projected Cost: Unknown

REJECTING THE PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS GRANT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, urban areas are the highest risk for terrorist attacks in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the intent of the 9/11 Act Commission Act of 2007 was to fund a range of municipal capabilities and prevention tools; and

WHEREAS, Department of Homeland Security (DHS) federal grants are critical for building and sustaining capabilities to prevent, respond and recover from acts of terrorism; and

WHEREAS, the current array of homeland security focused grant programs like Securing the Cities and Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) provide essential funding for ports, transportation, states and localities, which strengthen national security by directing limited resources to the highest risk urban areas with targeted and effective funding; and

WHEREAS, in its FY 2013 through FY 2015 budget submissions, the Administration has proposed a consolidation of Federal Emergency Management Administration's homeland security grant programs that would replace the current programs with a new National Preparedness Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) has a strong body of policy which supports the current homeland security grant programs; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has registered serious concerns with the proposal to convert the current suite of homeland security grant programs into a state-administered block and competitive grant program; and

WHEREAS, for the first time DHS has submitted draft legislative language in support of its appropriations request to consolidate homeland security grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the DHS language and proposal is misguided and jeopardizes cities' ability to keep their communities safe,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to maintain the range of homeland security grant programs as a suite of stand-alone programs; maintaining the current flexibility for homeland security funding.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CREATING JOBS THROUGH INCREASED TRAVEL TO THE U.S.

WHEREAS, last year (2013), the \$888 billion travel industry generated \$2.1 trillion in total economic output and has the potential to grow – and to grow fast; and

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States in particular is one of the most effective forms of economic stimulus. In 2013, spending by international visitors directly supported 1.2 million American jobs and generated \$181 billion in U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, increasing international travel in the United States is effective economic stimulus. When international visitors travel to the United States, they inject new money into the U.S. economy by staying in U.S. hotels, eating at U.S. restaurants, spending in U.S. stores, and visiting U.S. attractions; and

WHEREAS, international business travelers often attend conferences and trade shows in the U.S., and engage in face-to-face negotiations that yield sales of U.S. commercial goods and services; and

WHEREAS, expenditures made by international visitors made up one out of every 6.5 dollars spent by travelers in the United States. The travel industry generated a record international trade surplus of \$57 billion in 2013; and

WHEREAS, as a means to create jobs and economic development through trade and tourism, the legislation authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to admit into the United States a qualifying Canadian citizen over 50 years old and his or her spouse for a period not to exceed 240 days if the person 1) maintains a Canadian residence and 2) owns a U.S. residence or has rented a U.S. accommodation for the duration of such stay, and

WHEREAS, the employment recovery in the travel industry has outpaced the rest of the economy and much of this employment growth is being supported by the spending of international visitors traveling in the United States. Of the 131,000 jobs added in the travel industry in 2013, more than a two in five was supported by international travel spending; and

WHEREAS, the most lucrative segment of international travel for the United States is the overseas market. These visitors tend to stay longer and spend more money while in the United States. On average, every overseas visitor spends \$4,500 during their trip to the United States compared with less than \$1,000 for Canadian and Mexican visitors. In fact, the spending from every 34 overseas visitors traveling in the United States supports one U.S. job; and

WHEREAS, if the U.S. could regain 17 percent of global long-haul travel market share by 2020, the U.S. would receive 59.5 million overseas arrivals, \$265.4

billion in travel spending, and 1.4 million travel jobs in 2020. This means, the U.S. would gain an additional 49.8 million visitors and \$222 billion in travel spending cumulatively from 2014 to 2020, generating 452,000 new jobs over the current (2013) level; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to appropriate countries increases United States security; and

WHEREAS, VWP was created by Congress in 1986 to facilitate overseas business and leisure travel to the United States— and amended in 2007 so that it significantly enhances homeland security in addition to facilitating travel; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, countries included in the VWP were the largest source of inbound travel, sending from overseas more than 19 million visitors, or 60 percent of all overseas visitors, to the United States (i.e. international visitors other than those from our next-door neighbors Canada and Mexico); and

WHEREAS, in 2013, VWP visitors spent \$79 billion while traveling to and within the U.S., directly supporting more than half a million American jobs along with \$13 billion in payroll and generating \$12 billion in tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted legislation supporting an effort to develop and conduct a pilot program using secure videoconferencing technology to interview visa applicants in order to allow applicants greater access to the U.S. visa application process,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and the Congress to enact this year the pending Jobs Through Launching Travel Act (JOLT Act/H.R. 1354), to implement the following sensible reforms to the U.S. visa process:

- Based on available data concerning travel habits, booking patterns, and generally accepted marketing principles, the Secretary of State shall set a standard of processing 90 percent of all visa interviews within 10 business days; and
- The Secretary of Homeland Security should regain authority to expand the Visa Waiver Program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to countries with visa refusal rates up to 10 percent; and
- The Secretary of State should develop “premium processing” system to expedite short-term tourist and business visas for a fee; and

- The State Department should use the Congressional authority it has to conduct a pilot program using secure videoconferencing technology to interview visa applicants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the concept of extended legal stays by our neighbors who own or rent a residence in our country, but calls on the Congress to amend the legislation to extend its benefits to any resident of a bordering nation that meets all of the criteria set out in the bill.

Projected Cost: Unknown

REGARDING TRAVEL FACILITATION ISSUES

WHEREAS, airports play a vital role in the economy of the United States, providing for the efficient movement of people and goods to both domestic and international destinations; and

WHEREAS, airports are responsible for 10.5 million jobs, create an annual payroll of \$365 billion and produce an annual output of \$1.2 trillion; and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism play an important role in the economies of our nation's cities and are central to many city economic development plans; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has taken a lead role in promoting travel and tourism, including international travel and tourism to the U.S. by foreign nationals; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to our nation's airports to quickly, safely, and effectively move passengers through Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processing to ensure the United States' economic vitality driven by international business and trade; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to expand international travel for business, academic, medical, and leisure travel through expanded visa reciprocity and streamlined visa processes among the United States (U.S.) and other nations; and

WHEREAS, risk-based screening efforts like Global Entry (GE) significantly decrease the wait times for international passengers by reducing the number of passengers needing to be processed by an officer; and

WHEREAS, foreign nationals are discouraged from visiting U.S. destinations due to disproportionate waiting times, a lack of resources and outdated technology and screening procedures; and

WHEREAS, efficient facilitation of internationally arriving travelers at the gateway airports is vital to ensuring the continued growth of the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Travel Association, improving the inbound air travel experience could add \$85 billion in air traveler spending which would support 900,000 jobs nationally; and

WHEREAS, long wait times for U.S. visas (for example an average of 50 days in Brazil) hinder the ability of foreign nationals to travel to the U.S., robbing our nation's economy of billions of travel and tourism dollars; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of unnecessary interviews for low-risk visa applicants (visa renewals, full-time students, etc.) would allow consular officers to put greater focus on high-risk or first-time applicants and ease the burden for legitimate travelers to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, doubling spending by visitors from Brazil, China and India specifically could result in an additional \$15 billion to the U.S. economy, creating another 105,000 jobs in the travel and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, the Administration made good first steps to expand the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), expand reciprocal trusted traveler programs, and start pilot programs to increase visa waivers for some nations' low-risk groups; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State has the authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the duration of visas issued to Chinese nationals, from the current one-year period to a longer period (two, five or ten years), which would significantly reduce the number of travelers reapplying at the limited number of Embassies/Consulates in China,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the following actions by the Customs and Border Protection and the Department of State:

- Provide all top 25 international airports with daily actual wait times logged per Federal Inspection Services (FIS) facility, for greater transparency and communication, as well as the ability to monitor progress towards a goal; and
- Adopt a 30 minute goal of processing all international arriving passengers through Primary Passport Control, which would illustrate the need for additional officers, revised scheduling and queue management and/or new technology programs; and
- Provide additional staffing to provide adequate service to accommodate the growing number of international passengers; and
- Implement a close cooperation with airports to increase efficiency of operations and scheduling at current levels to maximize the number of officers in booths during peak periods, effectively reducing wait times for passengers; and
- Expand negotiations of International Reciprocal Agreements to increase the number of travelers eligible for the GE Program; and

- Provide all top 25 international airports with GE data relative to numbers of enrollments and kiosk usage (broken down by US citizens and foreign nationals) nationally and in our respective airports to gauge the effectiveness of promotional efforts and media outreach; and
- Funds generated (\$55 million) from the elimination of the user fee exemption for Mexico/Canada/Caribbean should be directly applied to increase resources/staff for airport passenger processing; and
- Consolidate the CBP user fees, currently at \$17.50 for Customs, Immigration and USDA inspection services per arriving international passenger, into one fee and increase to a level that reflects 50 percent of CBP personnel costs (currently user fees account for 37 percent of CBP's staffing budget of \$2.98 billion), with the additional revenue to be used to expand CBP staffing at U.S. international gateway airports; and
- Institute a pilot program to provide easier processing for in-transit (international-to-international connecting) passengers at the top 25 international airports. This would provide a better service to passengers, guaranteeing connections, and would eliminate these travelers from the general processing queue; and
- Reduce the time of visa processing for all applicants (especially China and Brazil); and
- Implement a pilot to waive in-person interviews for certain low-risk applicants (visa renewals, full-time students, etc.); and
- Expand the Visa Waiver Program to key target countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Chile, to significantly increase business and tourism to the U.S. and deploy consular officers to high-risk/volume countries, and
- Extend the duration of visas issued to Chinese nationals, from the current one-year period to a longer period (two, five or ten years), which would significantly reduce the number of travelers reapplying at the limited number of Embassies/Consulates in China.

Projected Cost: Unknown

FIX OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM NOW

WHEREAS, on June 27, 2013, the United States Senate adopted bipartisan legislation that would repair our nation's broken immigration system; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has had long-standing policy calling for quick passage of comprehensive legislation that fixes our immigration system and the Senate bill's principles are largely consistent with those established in Conference policy; and

WHEREAS, the House of Representatives has yet to act on immigration reform in this Congress, despite the fact that numerous bills have been introduced and several have even been reported out of committee; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors called on all members of the House to expeditiously bring immigration legislation to the House floor through a letter co-signed by a bipartisan group of more than 150 mayors; and

WHEREAS, that letter stated that fixing our nation's broken immigration laws is among the most important issues of interest to America's mayors currently before the U.S. House of Representatives; that mayors believe strongly that maintaining the status quo will further damage the economic, political and social structure of our cities and our country; and that the time is ripe for Congress to pass legislation that fixes immigration and creates a system that builds our economy, meets the nation's future workforce requirements, eliminates the incentives to enter the country illegally, humanely deals with the undocumented persons already here, and works to keep families together; and

WHEREAS, that letter urged that immigration legislation specifically:

- begin with the strengthening of border security and improving interior enforcement to better identify and remove visa overstays, but at the same time allow state and local law enforcement to be able to remain focused on community policing; and
- establish a less bureaucratic and more time-sensitive system that allows workers of all types - seasonal, agricultural, lesser-skilled and high skilled – to lawfully come to America, either temporarily or permanently, and contribute to our economy; and
- provide a uniform system of employment verification by recognizing that competing technologies and approaches exist and believing that they should be tested against one another in determining the best manner for accurately authenticating workers; and

- enable people to come out of the shadows and fully pursue the American Dream for themselves and their families, provisions essential to our efforts to combat crime and provide effective police protection for our citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its existing policy supporting comprehensive immigration legislation and calls on the House of Representatives to consider and pass immigration legislation expeditiously this year and to conference that legislation with that already passed by the Senate so that before this Congress adjourns it can send to the President legislation which he can sign which will fix our nation's broken immigration system.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CITIZENSHIP NOW

WHEREAS, the United States has long attracted immigrants to its shore to find success and pursue the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, more U.S. cities are home to diverse populations, such as in Los Angeles where 40 percent of its residents are foreign-born and hail from more than 110 countries in search of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, nationally there are approximately 8.8 million immigrants currently eligible for citizenship, and the City of Los Angeles has one of the largest concentrations of lawful permanent residents in the country eligible for U.S. Citizenship; and

WHEREAS, immigrants strengthen the economy and are often driving force behind the creation and success of small business enterprises; and

WHEREAS, it has been found that citizenship increases the overall economic revenue for local municipal governments; and

WHEREAS, citizenship creates new economic opportunities and increased civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has created a federal agency (USCIS) under the Department of Homeland Security to support naturalization efforts and to encourage naturalization in the form of local municipal partnerships; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the federal government and specifically USCIS to reduce fees for citizenship applicants and to minimize barriers to naturalization by offering alternatives like a sliding-scale income based approach or family unit fee,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the USCIS and Department of Homeland Security to make policy changes that will increase the number of U.S. citizens from the pool of eligible lawful permanent residents.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**URGING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO SUSPEND
DEPORTATIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED VENEZUELAN WITH
NO CRIMINAL HISTORY AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO IMMEDIATELY
DESIGNATE VENEZUELAN IMMIGRANTS FOR TEMPORARY
PROTECTED STATUS**

WHEREAS, the United States has a growing Venezuelan population, some of whom are undocumented Venezuelan immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Venezuelans have greatly contributed to the progress of the United States at large; and

WHEREAS, there are severe humanitarian consequences of deporting undocumented Venezuelans due to the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary conditions in Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, deportation of undocumented Venezuelan parents harms young children, who are often left without parental guidance or care and in a highly unstable financial situation; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 there were 11.7 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, according to the PEW Hispanic Center; and

WHEREAS, there were 368,644 deportations from the United States in 2013, according to United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, America's immigration system is broken; and

WHEREAS, legislation to reform immigration policy was passed by the United States Senate on June 27, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security has the power to grant Temporary Protected Status to nationals of certain countries for humanitarian causes; and

WHEREAS, currently, immigrants from countries granted Temporary Protected Status include immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges President Barack Obama to suspend deportations of undocumented Venezuelans with no criminal history and urges the United States Secretary of Homeland Security to immediately designate Venezuelan immigrants for Temporary Protected Status.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**RECOGNIZING U.S. LEADERSHIP IN PROTECTING REFUGEES
AND CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REFUGEES TO
THEIR NEW COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S.**

WHEREAS, World Refugee Day is observed on the 20th of June each year; and

WHEREAS, more than 45 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes and their countries due to persecution, conflict and violence; and

WHEREAS, refugees are persons in need of protection because they have been persecuted for their political opinion, religious belief, race, nationality or membership in a particular social group; and

WHEREAS, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), in carrying out its mandate to protect, assist and find durable solutions for refugees, relies on the steadfast support and leadership of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States has since its inception been a beacon of hope for those seeking peace and protection from persecution, and has generously opened its doors to some 3 million refugees over the past four decades; and

WHEREAS, the United States refugee resettlement program, led by the Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services, is a unique and robust public-private partnership of the federal government, state and local governments, non-profit agencies and countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, the generosity of states, counties, cities, and towns across the United States is essential to improving the lives of these refugees arriving in the United States - providing them with the opportunity to find new homes, to reunite with families and to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, refugees arriving in the United States have contributed their talents, knowledge, cultures, and entrepreneurship to enrich and strengthen the social and economic fabric of the communities that have welcomed them; and

WHEREAS, refugees and their children have become citizens of the United States, and have gone on to make significant contributions to science and the arts, public and military service, education and academia, business and industry, medicine and health care, entertainment and sports,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts of the federal government to ensure that the United States resettlement program remains responsive to the needs of refugees and of the communities who host them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges its members to facilitate the meaningful participation of refugees in discussions when issues or actions that affect refugees are being considered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors continues to promote the welcome and integration of refugees into their new communities in the United States; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors expresses its solidarity with the mayors of cities and towns around the world who are providing protection, shelter and aid to millions of refugees and displaced persons; and encourages the continued efforts of the United States, the UNHCR and the international community to help these vulnerable individuals and families,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors thus recognizes June 20th 2014, as World Refugee Day.

Projected Cost: None

SUPPORT FOR THE FREEDOM TO MARRY

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has long stood for full equality for same-sex couples, including endorsing the freedom to marry in 2009; and

WHEREAS, since the time of that resolution, support for marriage for same-sex couples has grown to nearly 60 percent nationwide, with majorities in every region of the country and opposition diminishing dramatically; and

WHEREAS, today, nineteen states plus the District of Columbia have now ended discrimination in marriage, so that now 44 percent of Americans live in a state where same-sex couples can marry; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the core of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, and in so doing eviscerated justifications for excluding same-sex couples from marriage; and

WHEREAS, as of June 17th, 2014, every one of the 15 federal district court judges who has ruled in a marriage case has found that state marriage discrimination violates the US Constitution; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be an untenable patchwork imposing great legal uncertainty and hardship on committed same-sex couples in the 31 states that deny their freedom to marry and refuse to respect their lawful marriages, even as the federal government rightly treats these couples as married for federal programs and purposes; and

WHEREAS, more than 400 mayors from 39 states and the District of Columbia have so far signed on to be a Mayor for the Freedom to Marry,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the freedom to marry for same-sex couples and urges the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, to speedily bring national resolution by ruling in favor of the freedom to marry nationwide.

Projected Cost: None

CONDEMNING “RIGHT-TO-DISCRIMINATE” LAWS

WHEREAS, bills have been introduced in at least 10 states this year that would allow and/or protect from suit any person or company to deny services, goods, and/or facilities to gays and lesbians on the basis of “sincere beliefs,” including a religious objection to gays and lesbians; and

WHEREAS, former United States Conference of Mayors President Scott Smith of Mesa, joined by mayors from throughout the nation, firmly repudiated such legislation as “institutionalized discrimination” which “carries the real potential for unintended legal consequences that could negatively impact our most basic rights, including the freedom of religion;” and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has a long record of leadership in advancing civil rights and equality for all, answering President Kennedy’s call for national mayoral action in support of the civil rights movement at the Honolulu annual meeting in 1963 and adopting a sweeping policy statement in 2008 on full equality for gays and lesbians, including full protection against discrimination,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors condemns legislation that authorizes discrimination in employment or refusal to provide goods, services, or facilities to gays, lesbians, or others on the basis of “sincere beliefs;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that is the policy of The United States Conference of Mayors not to hold its official meetings in any state that enacts such legislation.

Project Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF CITIES FOR CEDAW INITIATIVE AND
ENCOURAGING CITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES OF
THE UN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979, became an international treaty as of September 3, 1981, and 186 UN member nations, have agreed to be bound by CEDAW's provisions; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW provides a comprehensive framework for governments to examine their policies and practices in relation to women and girls and to rectify discrimination based on sex against half the world's population; and

WHEREAS, although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality in most fields, much more needs to be accomplished to fully eradicate discrimination based on sex and to achieve one of the most basic human rights, equality; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the only industrialized nation to not yet ratify CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, it has been almost 40 years since the first UN World Conference on Women and almost 20 years since the historic Beijing Platform for Action; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW has proven effective in many nations as a mechanism to advance gender equality, and

WHEREAS, many communities and states have called for ratification of CEDAW by the United States Congress, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco became the first city in the world to adopt an ordinance reflecting the principles of CEDAW in 1998; and Los Angeles followed in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Cities for CEDAW was launched at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, a local CEDAW resolution or ordinance seeks three standards; a gender analysis of city departments and commissions, an oversight body to ensure that appropriate and timely actions are taken; and funding to support the implementation of the principles of CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, city and county governments have an appropriate and legitimate role in affirming the importance of international law in communities as universal norms and to serve as guides for public policy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges cities across the United States to join San Francisco and Los Angeles, participate in the Cities for CEDAW initiative, and pass local resolutions or ordinances reflecting the principles of CEDAW.

Projected Cost: Unknown

THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964

WHEREAS, July 2, 1964 marked the enactment of landmark legislation that changed the face America presents to the world and to history; and

WHEREAS, in as much as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended legal segregation of the races in all public accommodations; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibited discrimination in all areas on the basis of color, religion, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the first of three historic measures enacted during the Administration of President Lyndon B. Johnson not only to end segregation but also to assure all citizens of the right to vote and fair access in the sale or rental of housing; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has a long history of support for civil rights and non-discrimination legislation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors will observe July 2, 2014 with appropriate attention and ceremony as the 50th anniversary of the day when the United States of America became a better country in which to live, for all of its people.

Proposed Cost: None

A “CALL TO ACTION” FOR DEVELOPING ANTI-ADDICTION VACCINES

WHEREAS, each year almost 700,000 Americans who are addicts or victims of addicts die a pre-mature, preventable death due to the addictions of illicit drugs including opiates, nicotine/tobacco, and alcohol; and

WHEREAS, the economic cost to the United States of those deaths, the 300,000 annual injuries/illnesses due to addiction, and the incremental cost to the federal, state, local governments and non-profit entities is \$2.6 trillion per year; and

WHEREAS, the United States has for decades pursued, and continues to pursue, a failed anti-addiction strategy, by failing to stop the supply of illicit drugs including opiates, and failing to stop the demand for these illicit drugs, opiates and nicotine on a large scale; and

WHEREAS, while treatment and rehabilitation programs have had some successes, they have never been sufficiently funded and, though well intended, have not been able to reduce significantly the 20 to 30 million addicts of these addictions; and

WHEREAS, making addictive substances a crime has not worked in the past and is not working now since the U.S. has today the highest incarceration rate of any developed nation in the world with almost 50 percent of inmates in prison there due to drugs; and

WHEREAS, taxation and regulation have not markedly reduced the number of addicts; and

WHEREAS, using medical science and technology holds great promise as a completely new, innovative anti-addiction strategy to cure and prevent addictions, but \$2 billion in funding from charitable foundations is needed to enable a single purpose, 501 (C) organization, managed by the best and brightest researchers, to find vaccine solutions using biologic and brain science R&D approaches to conquer these addictions within 10 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that this new strategy be supported, that the dire consequences of these addictions as a whole be continually publicized, and that anti-addiction efforts be raised to a high priority in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the individual member mayors of the United States Conference of Mayors be encouraged to help identify a potential charitable foundation in their area, so that collectively a group of those large charitable foundations will study and hopefully commit to funding the requested \$2 billion for an effective R&D program seeking anti-addiction vaccine solutions.

Projected Cost: None to cities, states, or federal government

ENERGY COMMITTEE

SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANTS

WHEREAS, the nation faces unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs, over dependence on foreign sources of energy, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, ongoing federal investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is critical to positioning America to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and cities are best suited to improve and enforce building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

WHEREAS, local governments have also implemented programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through re-utilization of resources, reduction of energy consumption, and improving the environment through waste reduction and recycling programs, encouraging waste-to-energy technology, and capturing methane in landfills; and

WHEREAS, over 1,060 mayors have signed The United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities' greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has endorsed a national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, successful local government programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, many cities are not able to expand or implement the full range of these types of programs due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting these types of local activities, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation - energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has previously conceived and called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program that would provide money directly to city, county and state governments to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P. L.110-140) established a new EECBG program at the U. S. Department of Energy, authorizing \$2 billion annually over five fiscal years in formula grants to cities, counties, and states to develop energy efficiency strategies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), a law established to stimulate the economy and create over three million jobs, provided \$3.2 billion for the EECBG program to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments are successfully utilizing their ARRA EECBG funds to implement local strategies that create jobs, save energy, promote renewable sources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 “Clean Energy Solutions for America’s Cities” report commissioned by The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 85% of cities felt that ARRA EECBG funding was important to their city’s energy efforts and 87% supported the appropriation of additional EECBG funding in future years; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 “Successful City Initiatives with Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funding” report commissioned by The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 62% of cities invested energy block grant funds in developing new programs that were not previously included in city energy and climate plans and 87% expended a majority of their grant dollars on municipal projects and operations, such as improving city-owned buildings, upgrading streetlights, or deploying renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, cities would benefit from knowing that a dedicated funding mechanism has been established for the EECBG to help them create better short and long-term energy efficiency and conservation strategies in their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2015, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.

Projected Cost: \$2 billion

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are already affecting our communities, natural resources, ecosystems, economies, and public health in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has announced a series of Executive Actions under the Administration's Climate Action Plan to prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change, to reduce carbon pollution, and to lead international efforts to address global climate change; and

WHEREAS, in May, the Administration released its Third U.S. National Climate Assessment, the most authoritative and comprehensive source of scientific information to date about climate change impacts across eight U.S. regions and on key sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS, President Obama signed an Executive Order in November 2013 to establish the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience that includes fourteen mayors and will advise the Administration on how the Federal Government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Administration seeks to modernize federal programs to support climate resilient policy, planning, and investment; and

WHEREAS, U.S. mayors can utilize the National Climate Assessment and other Federal guidance to better inform the local decision-making process as cities across the Nation prepare for and adapt to climate change,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Administration for its thorough National Climate Assessment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds President Obama for convening the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors looks forward to the final recommendations of the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

Projected Cost: Unknown

EMERGENCY ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECTION

WHEREAS, the collapse of the giant West Antarctica ice sheet is now underway that will lead to rising sea levels, according to a peer-reviewed NASA funded study and confirmed by an independent study conducted by University of Washington scientists; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (2014), total anthropogenic Green House Gas (GHG) emissions have continued to increase over 1970 to 2010, with larger decade increases toward the end of the period; and that annual GHG emissions grew on average by 1.0 giga tonne carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO₂ eq) (2.2%) per year from 2000 to 2010 compared to 0.4 GtCO₂eq (1.3%) per year from 1970 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, total anthropogenic GHG emissions were the highest in human history from 2000 to 2010 and reached 49(±4.5) GtCO₂eq/yr in 2010 (IPCC, 2014); and

WHEREAS, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributed about 78% of the total GHG emissions increase from 1970 to 2010, with a similar percentage contribution from the period 2000 to 2010 (IPCC, 2014); and

WHEREAS, of the 49 (±4.5) GtCO₂eq emissions in 2010, 35% of GHG emissions were released in the energy supply sector; 24% in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use; 21% in industry, 14% in transport and 6.4% in buildings IPCC 2014); and

WHEREAS, without additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions beyond those in place today, emissions growth is expected to persist driven by growth in global population and economic activities; baseline scenarios result in global mean surface temperature increases in 2100 from 3.7 to 4.8°C compared to pre-industrialized levels (median values: the range 2.5°C to 7.8°C when including climate uncertainty (IPCC 2014); and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, through a 2012 resolution, supports the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate GHG emissions under the Clean Air Act and filed an amicus brief in Massachusetts v EPA in which the Supreme Court ruled that EPA had such authority; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long supported the need to reduce GHG emissions from major sources in order to mitigate global warming and its dire consequences, including recently proposed GHG emission standards for new fossil fuel generating sources; and

WHEREAS, U.S. cities and our metro economies will be significantly threatened by rising sea levels and more severe storms if climate protection strategies to reduce GHG emissions are not implemented, resulting in personal injury, dramatic property loss, increased infrastructure costs, and other negative consequences on our cities and their citizens,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to enact an Emergency Climate Protection law that provides a framework and funding for the implementation, in conjunction with state and local government and the private sector, of a comprehensive national plan to dramatically reduce GHG emissions to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change on the planet, including full funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, incentives for the implementation of energy efficiency building standards, the development of more aggressive mileage efficiency standards, adoption of a national renewable portfolio standard, establishment of national GHG reduction goals; and creation of a Federal Climate Protection Board to oversee progress of meeting such goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress permanently extend renewable energy tax credits, particularly those for solar, wind and geothermal, among others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the EPA to provide flexibility in its development of CAA standards for existing utility generating facilities to reduce GHG emissions, allowing a variety of mechanisms such as participation in regional emission trading systems, investments in renewable energy technologies, adoption of renewable energy portfolio standards, implementation of energy conservation programs, and other GHG reduction strategies directed both at particular utility generating facilities (inside the fence) and programs beyond such facilities (outside the fence), provided that actual reductions in GHG emissions are achieved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors call on the Administration to give high priority to the pursuit of international agreements to address global climate change and GHG emission reductions.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE RESILIENCY

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are committed to addressing the threats climate change poses to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the recently released National Climate Assessment shows that cities will continue to bear the brunt of environmental impacts going forward; and

WHEREAS, the frequency of billion-dollar extreme weather events – from hurricanes, flooding, and rising sea levels to droughts, heat waves, and wildfires – has increased dramatically in recent years, trending from an average of less than two per year in the 1980s to an annual average of more than nine events from 2010 to 2012; and

WHEREAS, resiliency efforts, especially those regarding water and wastewater, not only save lives and taxpayer dollars but also play a key role in preparing cities for the challenges they face from these events; and

WHEREAS, a recent report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that every \$1 invested in community resilience will reduce disaster damages by \$4, and a recent report by the Center for American Progress (CAP) found that in FYs 2011-2013, federal taxpayers spent \$6 dollars on disaster cleanup for every \$1 spent on community resilience; and

WHEREAS, cities currently face several barriers to properly planning and implementing resiliency efforts, including funding and financing challenges, insufficient permitting and regulatory flexibility, a shortage of data and modeling information, and a lack of communication and partnership among communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports President Obama's Climate Action Plan and endorses the creation of a \$1 billion Climate Resilience Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to develop a national strategy, in cooperation with local and state governments, that will aid communities in becoming more resilient and enable data sharing across all levels of government in order to strengthen the response to climate change across the nation.

Projected Cost: \$1 billion

SUPPORTING FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF FACILITY ENERGY USAGE

WHEREAS, the United States faces the challenge of consistently increasing global demand for limited energy resources combined with commensurate pricing escalation; and

WHEREAS, the security of the nation and the general health, safety and general well-being of our citizenry is dependent upon there being a consistently available supply of affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, a reliable and affordable supply of energy is a cornerstone for creating and maintaining a society operating in accordance with the goals of sustainability and equity; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has embarked upon an unprecedented level of capital investment in energy efficiency, renewability and conservation and has prompted public and private sector investment in alternative energy sources; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments must coordinate their governmental efforts to partner with the federal government in ensuring that both government and the private sector adopt and implement sound *green energy* policies; and

WHEREAS, public and private structures collectively account for nearly half of our nation's energy consumption; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments often being the direct provider of essential public services is best positioned to coordinate private sector participation in the systemic implementation of *green energy* solutions; and

WHEREAS, The U. S. Conference of Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement had been signed by more than a thousand mayors, thereby pledging their municipality's commitment to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of seven percent from the 1990 levels and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 80% by 2050 from the 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, local municipalities all over the nation are adopting the policies established by the federal government and pursuing goals of energy independence and environmental improvement; and

WHEREAS, a sound sustainable public policy is driven by solid analytics and reliable data; and

WHEREAS, a sustainable energy policy is a prerequisite to a *green* and innovative environmental policy, with the goal of syncing energy and environmental outcomes; and

WHEREAS, all utilities (electric, gas, water and sewer) should be capable of downloading and transmitting into the Dept. of Energy's Energy Star' Building Portfolio Manager energy usage figures for all public buildings to report a BTU/sq. ft. rating and to publish scoring for all building performances (e.g. 1 – 100); and

WHEREAS, the imperative to share energy consumption data will generate positive and negative incentives to emulate successful entities in their reduction of energy usage by retrofitting buildings and installing energy-saving hardware and software; and

WHEREAS, innovative cities such as Boston, MA already have adopted local ordinances mandating periodic building energy and water consumption disclosure, reporting, assessment and action for non-residential structures above a minimum size; and

WHEREAS, various municipalities have engaged (and various others such as Bridgeport, CT are in the process of retaining) the services of private sector consultants/contractors to provide the technical capacity to track and analyze energy usage by building, day, time and other variables in order to enable proactive planning for energy conservation via such innovations as centralizing energy information, reducing system integration cost, identifying opportunities for energy savings, minimizing peak demand charges by optimizing scheduling, introducing behavioral efficiencies, benchmarking progress and showcasing sustainability efforts and successes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Obama Administration to adopt with full federal funding, appropriate laws, regulations, policies and/or procedures to facilitate and/or to mandate that all industrial, commercial and other non-residential structures above an appropriately determined minimum size and all multi-family residential structures housing more than an appropriately determined minimum number of dwelling units provide annual data as to their energy, water and other utility consumptions to a central repository of the host municipality, and undertake as reasonably necessary such remedial action as directed by law to conserve energy and enhance sustainability and quality of life; and urges the full cooperation, assistance, and operations and full funding support of the federal government for such *green energy* initiatives (including for procurement and installation of smart technology to automatically track and report energy consumption) to be implemented at the local level.

Projected Cost: Unknown

URGING A FEDERAL CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM THAT INCLUDES A PARTNERSHIP WITH CITIES

WHEREAS, the nation faces unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs, over dependence on foreign sources of energy, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, ongoing federal investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is critical to positioning America to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and cities are best suited to improve and enforce building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, distributed generation, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, and distributed generation; and

WHEREAS, over 1,060 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities' greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, successful local government programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, many cities are not able to expand or implement the full range of these types of programs due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting these types of local activities, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation - energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, local governments have successfully utilized their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds to implement local strategies that create jobs, save energy, promote renewable sources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to develop a partnership with local governments and appropriate sufficient funding through the energy block grant structure or other funding structures at the Department of Energy to further incentivize clean energy leadership at the local level.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING FEDERAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY ASSURANCE AND ENERGY SECURITY EFFORTS

WHEREAS, the economic resiliency of cities and local economies across America is of paramount importance, and energy supply shortages often have dramatic negative financial impacts on American communities; and

WHEREAS, keeping local government energy services on-line during future energy emergencies can result in saved lives; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 “Energy Efficiency and Technologies in America’s Cities” report commissioned by The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 76% of cities have developed an energy emergency response plan that maintains key municipal services during power outages; and

WHEREAS, energy shortages at the local government level can be considered a major national security issue, depending on the severity of the shortage; and

WHEREAS, local government energy supplies are usually inextricably tied to the fate of their local energy providers, and maintaining basic government services to the general public is expected from the community and is also of increasing importance to public officials; and

WHEREAS, power to communities is sometimes not restored for more than a week due to major natural disasters, communities need the ability to provide important services during that time period, and they need to plan for extended power outages that last beyond the traditional one to three days used in the past; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is devoting major financial resources to developing new energy assurance-related technologies through national laboratories and other institutions, and these technologies are largely unknown to many local government officials; and

WHEREAS, recent natural disasters such as the \$50 billion Hurricane Sandy on our East Coast are horrific and expected generally to increase in frequency, duration and severity in the near future, further straining our aging electrical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, local government resources available for purchasing back-up power and emergency management-related equipment are severely strained due to revenue shortfalls associated with our reeling national economy; and

WHEREAS, the federal government and private utilities are modernizing the nation's electrical grid, but at a relatively slow pace given the need for upgrading equipment and protecting American lives; and

WHEREAS, recent actions by the Obama Administration and Congress continue to reduce federal financial support for local government energy assurance efforts through the U.S. Department of Energy and other federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, lessons learned through local government energy assurance planning efforts funded in the past through the federal government need to be immediately shared with other communities; and

WHEREAS, helping local governments prepare for, and mitigate against, future energy shortages resulting from natural disasters is an important national priority; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration and Congress have an excellent opportunity to create jobs, improve safety and save lives by assisting local governments with the diversification of their energy supplies through distributed energy resources and other federally-funded technologies and programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the federal government to devote significant financial resources to local government energy assurance efforts in the coming fiscal year, while working with Mayors to establish new energy assurance planning initiatives that result in improved safety, increased resiliency and economic competitiveness at the local government level; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to participate directly with local policymakers and leaders in the development of local energy assurance plans that help governments identify their key assets and services, while also developing ordinances, regulations, technical assistance teams and best practice compendiums that help communities become more resilient with the ability to better withstand future energy shortages.

Projected cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING A FEDERAL RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD AND EXTENDING THE RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS

WHEREAS, the nation faces unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs, over dependence on foreign sources of energy, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, strategic federal renewable energy policies are critical to positioning America to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, the solar energy sector now employs almost 120,000 Americans across all 50 states, having grown by 13.2% in 2012; and

WHEREAS, commercialization of 2nd & 3rd generation of Bio-fuel energy is expected to generate 800,000 new jobs – 610,000 indirect new jobs and 190,000 direct new jobs – by 2022 in the US; and

WHEREAS, sustained growth in the renewable energy sector and commensurate job increases requires a reliable federal renewable energy policy framework; and

WHEREAS, over 1,060 mayors have signed The U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities' greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has endorsed a national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2011 “Clean Energy Solutions for America's Cities” report commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Mayors found that one-quarter of U.S. cities (25%) have set specific targets for increasing their use of renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, successful local government programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting renewable energy deployment, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation – energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving the environment, and creating thousands of jobs; and

WHEREAS, local governments have successfully utilized their American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant funds to implement local strategies that create jobs, save energy, promote renewable sources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, renewable electricity production tax credits and business energy investment tax credits have proven successful in spurring the development and deployment of renewable energy throughout the US; and

WHEREAS, the Renewable Electricity Production Tax Credit for wind production ended on December 31st 2013; and

WHEREAS, the production tax credit for other forms of renewable electricity expired on December 31st 2013; and

WHEREAS, the Business Energy Investment Tax Credit expires December 31, 2016,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to adopt an aggressive national renewable energy portfolio standard, and extend the renewable electricity production tax credit through at least 2020 and the business energy investment tax credit through at least 2022.

Projected Cost: Unknown

REQUIRE THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOCUS ON THE SAFE TREATMENT AND STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE ON-SITE WHERE APPROPRIATE TO MITIGATE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS OF TRANSPORTING LOW, HIGH AND MIXED LEVEL WASTE TO OFFSITE TREATMENT FACILITIES

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that the treatment of nuclear waste is a regional and national issue that requires the collaboration of all levels of government to develop practical and safe solutions; and

WHEREAS, nuclear waste treatment sites across the U. S. have documented leakage of strontium-90, tritium, uranium, and technetium-99, among other toxic pollutants, into the groundwater; and

WHEREAS, future receipt of off-site waste at these sites are projected to have significant adverse long-term impacts on the groundwater, which ultimately impact other bodies of water; and

WHEREAS, transporting low, high, and mixed level radioactive materials across the nation on major interstates, highways and railways will expose countless communities across the country to hazardous radiation; and

WHEREAS, a study by the Department of Energy several years ago estimated that over 800 adults would die from cancer due to radiation emitted from trucks in the Northwest region alone; and

WHEREAS, a truck or railway accident or terrorist attack involving transported low, high and mixed level nuclear waste would render entire cities and surrounding areas uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers, our nation's crumbling infrastructure and system of highways, roads, and bridges is rated a D+; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy has announced it intends to transport Uranium 233 waste from Oak Ridge, Tennessee to Las Vegas, Nevada for burial at the Nevada National Security Site; and

WHEREAS, in February 2014 a truck delivering radioactive waste caught on fire at New Mexico's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP); and

WHEREAS, in the event of a radiological emergency in or near a city, significant impacts could create a financial burden of millions of dollars to the emergency management agencies charged with protecting the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Department of Energy to focus on the treatment and storage of radioactive waste on-site to avoid further health and environmental impacts from the transportation of waste produced from other decommissioned nuclear facilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon its membership to be knowledgeable about the U.S. Department of Energy's planned routes, quantities, and timing to ship radioactive Uranium 233 waste along 2,000+ miles between Tennessee and Nevada.

Projected Cost: Unknown

DISTRIBUTED GENERATION AND DECENTRALIZED ENERGY CREATION/DISTRIBUTION

WHEREAS, city governments recognize the growing importance of reliable energy for economic development and also know that the local deployment of distributed resources helps mitigate three drivers of higher power costs: transmission and distribution upgrades, fuel costs, and air emissions compliance; and

WHEREAS, grid systems built to power industrial factories and mechanical processes do not provide the reliability needed to retain and attract modern, electronic enterprises and increasingly, city businesses face unacceptable risks of periodic, acute power disruption (i.e., blackouts and brownouts) as well as constant, chronic power quality fluctuations (i.e., surges and harmonics); and

WHEREAS, technological advances now make it possible for city businesses to access power not only from the traditional grid system of central power plants and transmission wires, but also from distributed resources: small-scale modular power technologies as well as nongenerating measures, such as energy efficiency, demand response and load substitution; and

WHEREAS, deploying distributed resources at or near their point of use provides unique benefits to power companies and customers, reducing loads on transmission and distribution (T&D) systems can postpone or eliminate infrastructure costs; and

WHEREAS, modular micro generators can produce more reliable power at lower costs and can be interconnected with intelligent controllers in micro grids which are more efficient in terms of fuel use and air emissions; and

WHEREAS, a decentralized system of many dispersed generating units becomes more resilient, able to recover more readily from natural disasters or malicious attacks; and

WHEREAS, businesses combining resources can achieve extraordinary efficiencies in the local use of combined heat and power services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes distributed generation as a viable means of providing reliable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the use of distributed generation in supplying the citizens of our cities with more resilient, reliable and affordable energy and urges cities to evaluate existing infrastructure and power supply chains to identify areas in need of improvement and prioritize the system's most pressing concerns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that energy generation and distribution must change with the evolving power needs of the increasingly technology-based nature of the country's economic development.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are already affecting our communities, natural resources, ecosystems, economies, and public health in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has announced a series of Executive Actions under the Administration's Climate Action Plan to prepare the United States for the impacts of climate change, to reduce carbon pollution, and to lead international efforts to address global climate change; and

WHEREAS, in May, the Administration released its Third U.S. National Climate Assessment, the most authoritative and comprehensive source of scientific information to date about climate change impacts across eight U.S. regions and on key sectors of the economy; and

WHEREAS, President Obama signed an Executive Order in November 2013 to establish the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience that includes fourteen mayors and will advise the Administration on how the Federal Government can respond to the needs of communities nationwide that are dealing with the impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the Administration seeks to modernize federal programs to support climate resilient policy, planning, and investment; and

WHEREAS, U.S. mayors can utilize the National Climate Assessment and other Federal guidance to better inform the local decision-making process as cities across the Nation prepare for and adapt to climate change,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Administration for its thorough National Climate Assessment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds President Obama for convening the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors looks forward to the final recommendations of the State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING FULL AND DEDICATED FUNDING OF THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANTS

WHEREAS, the nation faces unprecedented energy challenges, including rapidly escalating energy costs, over dependence on foreign sources of energy, and critical choices about energy resources that will affect the nation's future economic well-being and security; and

WHEREAS, ongoing federal investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy is critical to positioning America to be competitive in the global economy, increase American energy independence, build livable and sustainable communities, drive investment in new, clean energy solutions and create new, local jobs, aiding in our national economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, commercial, residential and public buildings are responsible for more than 40 percent of the nation's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions and cities are best suited to improve and enforce building codes, foster community-scale renewable energy, and create other programs and incentives to increase efficiency and reduce energy use in commercial and residential buildings; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector produces one third of the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and cities can substantially reduce emissions and vehicle-miles traveled by promoting public transit and more effective land use and transportation planning; and

WHEREAS, cities have been laboratories of innovation, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, including increasing energy efficiency for public and private buildings, encouraging energy independence through the use of alternative energy sources, switching their fleets to alternative fuels and more fuel efficient vehicles; and building alternative infrastructure to encourage their citizens to utilize other forms of greener transportation; and

WHEREAS, local governments have also implemented programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through re-utilization of resources, reduction of energy consumption, and improving the environment through waste reduction and recycling programs, encouraging waste-to-energy technology, and capturing methane in landfills; and

WHEREAS, over 1,060 mayors have signed The United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities' greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has endorsed a national goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent from 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, successful local government programs could be expanded or replicated throughout the country, thereby resulting in nationwide reductions in energy use which will increase our nation's energy independence and competitiveness while improving our national and global environment; and

WHEREAS, many cities are not able to expand or implement the full range of these types of programs due to budgetary constraints; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, by supporting these types of local activities, would demonstrate its commitment to help solve some of the most important issues facing the nation - energy independence, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and improving the environment; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has previously conceived and called for the creation of an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program that would provide money directly to city, county and state governments to implement innovative energy saving and environmental strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (P. L.110-140) established a new EECBG program at the U. S. Department of Energy, authorizing \$2 billion annually over five fiscal years in formula grants to cities, counties, and states to develop energy efficiency strategies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA), a law established to stimulate the economy and create over three million jobs, provided \$3.2 billion for the EECBG program to develop and implement energy efficiency programs in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments are successfully utilizing their ARRA EECBG funds to implement local strategies that create jobs, save energy, promote renewable sources, and cut greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, the 2011 “Clean Energy Solutions for America’s Cities” report commissioned by The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 85% of cities felt that ARRA EECBG funding was important to their city’s energy efforts and 87% supported the appropriation of additional EECBG funding in future years; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 “Successful City Initiatives with Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Funding” report commissioned by The U.S. Conference of Mayors found that 62% of cities invested energy block grant funds

in developing new programs that were not previously included in city energy and climate plans and 87% expended a majority of their grant dollars on municipal projects and operations, such as improving city-owned buildings, upgrading streetlights, or deploying renewable energy; and

WHEREAS, cities would benefit from knowing that a dedicated funding mechanism has been established for the EECBG to help them create better short and long-term energy efficiency and conservation strategies in their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in Fiscal Year 2015, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.

Projected Cost: \$2 billion

EMERGENCY ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE AND PROTECTION

WHEREAS, the collapse of the giant West Antarctica ice sheet is now underway that will lead to rising sea levels, according to a peer-reviewed NASA funded study and confirmed by an independent study conducted by University of Washington scientists; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (2014), total anthropogenic Green House Gas (GHG) emissions have continued to increase over 1970 to 2010, with larger decade increases toward the end of the period; and that annual GHG emissions grew on average by 1.0 giga tonne carbon dioxide equivalent (GtCO₂ eq) (2.2%) per year from 2000 to 2010 compared to 0.4 GtCO₂eq (1.3%) per year from 1970 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, total anthropogenic GHG emissions were the highest in human history from 2000 to 2010 and reached 49(±4.5) GtCO₂eq/yr in 2010 (IPCC, 2014); and

WHEREAS, CO₂ emissions from fossil fuel combustion and industrial processes contributed about 78% of the total GHG emissions increase from 1970 to 2010, with a similar percentage contribution from the period 2000 to 2010 (IPCC, 2014); and

WHEREAS, of the 49 (±4.5) GtCO₂eq emissions in 2010, 35% of GHG emissions were released in the energy supply sector; 24% in Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use; 21% in industry, 14% in transport and 6.4% in buildings (IPCC 2014); and

WHEREAS, without additional efforts to reduce GHG emissions beyond those in place today, emissions growth is expected to persist driven by growth in global population and economic activities; baseline scenarios result in global mean surface temperature increases in 2100 from 3.7 to 4.8°C compared to pre-industrialized levels (median values: the range is 2.5°C to 7.8°C when including climate uncertainty (IPCC 2014); and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors, through a 2012 resolution, supports the authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to regulate GHG emissions under the Clean Air Act and filed an amicus brief in Massachusetts v EPA in which the Supreme Court ruled that EPA had such authority; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long supported the need to reduce GHG emissions from major sources in order to mitigate global warming and its dire consequences, including recently proposed GHG emission standards for new fossil fuel generating sources; and

WHEREAS, U.S. cities and our metro economies will be significantly threatened by rising sea levels and more severe storms if climate protection strategies to reduce GHG emissions are not implemented, resulting in personal injury, dramatic property loss, increased infrastructure costs, and other negative consequences on our cities and their citizens,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the Administration and Congress to enact an Emergency Climate Protection law that provides a framework and funding for the implementation, in conjunction with state and local government and the private sector, of a comprehensive national plan to dramatically reduce GHG emissions to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change on the planet, including full funding of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, incentives for the implementation of energy efficiency building standards, the development of more aggressive mileage efficiency standards, adoption of a national renewable portfolio standard, establishment of national GHG reduction goals; and creation of a Federal Climate Protection Board to oversee progress of meeting such goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress permanently extend renewable energy tax credits, particularly those for solar, wind and geothermal, among others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the EPA to provide flexibility in its development of CAA standards for existing utility generating facilities to reduce GHG emissions, allowing a variety of mechanisms such as participation in regional emission trading systems, investments in renewable energy technologies, adoption of renewable energy portfolio standards, implementation of energy conservation programs, and other GHG reduction strategies directed both at particular utility generating facilities (inside the fence) and programs beyond such facilities (outside the fence), provided that actual reductions in GHG emissions are achieved; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors call on the Administration to give high priority to the pursuit of international agreements to address global climate change and GHG emission reductions.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE RESILIENCY

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are committed to addressing the threats climate change poses to their communities; and

WHEREAS, the recently released National Climate Assessment shows that cities will continue to bear the brunt of environmental impacts going forward; and

WHEREAS, the frequency of billion-dollar extreme weather events – from hurricanes, flooding, and rising sea levels to droughts, heat waves, and wildfires – has increased dramatically in recent years, trending from an average of less than two per year in the 1980s to an annual average of more than nine events from 2010 to 2012; and

WHEREAS, resiliency efforts, especially those regarding water and wastewater, not only save lives and taxpayer dollars but also play a key role in preparing cities for the challenges they face from these events; and

WHEREAS, a recent report by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimates that every \$1 invested in community resilience will reduce disaster damages by \$4, and a recent report by the Center for American Progress (CAP) found that in FYs 2011-2013, federal taxpayers spent \$6 dollars on disaster cleanup for every \$1 spent on community resilience; and

WHEREAS, cities currently face several barriers to properly planning and implementing resiliency efforts, including funding and financing challenges, insufficient permitting and regulatory flexibility, a shortage of data and modeling information, and a lack of communication and partnership among communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports President Obama's Climate Action Plan and endorses the creation of a \$1 billion Climate Resilience Fund; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to develop a national strategy, in cooperation with local and state governments, that will aid communities in becoming more resilient and enable data sharing across all levels of government in order to strengthen the response to climate change across the nation.

Projected Cost: \$1 billion

SUPPORT THE DONATION OF USED GOODS TO LEGITIMATE LOCAL NONPROFITS AS A MEANS OF CONTRIBUTING TO LOCAL ECONOMIES, DIVERTING ITEMS FROM LANDFILLS, THEREBY HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDING LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES THAT STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, for many years, Goodwill® and other like industries have been entrepreneurial leaders, environmental pioneers and social innovators of the “reduce, reuse, repurpose” practice; and

WHEREAS, these industries divert more than three billion pounds annually from landfills by recovering the value in people’s unwanted goods and diverting usable goods, thereby having a positive economic impact on local communities; and

WHEREAS, these industries’ social enterprise models demonstrate social and environmental leadership, creating thousands of jobs and contributing to the economic health of communities while preserving resources and the environment, and reducing tax paying citizens’ reliance on public assistance; and

WHEREAS, through socially innovative partnerships such as environmentally responsible corporations, county and city governments, as well as other organizations, they divert unwanted or used computers and computer equipment from landfills, and provides community consumer education on environmentally responsible computer disposal; and

WHEREAS, these programs create job training and employment opportunities for people in need of work — from collecting and sorting jobs to more skilled positions—improving and strengthening neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, these industries’ donation-resale models extend the life of usable clothing and other goods, and channels more than 83 cents of every dollar to help people in local communities move toward family-sustaining careers by providing important social services, including child care, financial counseling, mentoring and other services, that benefit more than nine million people each year—strengthening families and local communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors commends the corporate social responsibility platform and public awareness movement that encourages consumers, in local municipalities, to support the donation of used goods as a means of contributing to local economies, local communities and diverting items from landfills, thereby helping the environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors commends nonprofit social enterprises, which provide community-based job training; offer locally focused career services, support programs for people who face challenges to finding employment and other local social services that strengthen families and communities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE SUPERFUND TAX

WHEREAS, “Superfund” is the name given to the environmental program established to address hazardous waste sites, and is also the name of the fund established by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980; and

WHEREAS, nearly 70 million Americans—10 million of whom are children – live within four miles of a Superfund site, and are consequently exposed to toxic waste such as arsenic, benzene, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), pesticides, mercury and a range of solvents, and potentially contaminated groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the Superfund cleanup process is complex, as it involves the steps taken to assess sites, place them on the National Priorities List, and establish and implement appropriate cleanup plans; and

WHEREAS, the Superfund cleanup program was largely financed through a “polluter pays” excise tax to ensure that parties who benefit from the manufacture or sale of substances that commonly cause environmental problems at hazardous waste sites, and not taxpayers, help bear the cost of cleanup when responsible parties cannot be identified; and

WHEREAS, the Superfund “polluter pays” taxes expired on December 31, 1995, and since the expiration of the taxes, Superfund program funding has been largely financed from General Revenue transfers to the Superfund Trust Fund as well as from municipal general and utility funds, thus burdening the taxpayer with the costs of cleaning up abandoned hazardous waste sites, and creating lengthy, burdensome and expensive legal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, on June 21, 2010, the Obama Administration called on Congress to reinstate the lapsed Superfund “polluter pays” taxes, stating that “Our taxes should be paying for teachers, police officers and infrastructure that is essential for sustainable growth -- not footing the bill for polluters”; and

WHEREAS, the re-enactment of the Superfund tax will expedite the cleanup of Superfund sites across the country, thereby reducing risk to humans and the environment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to pass and enact legislation to reinstate the Superfund excise tax.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ELIMINATION OF OVERLAPPING AND REDUNDANT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the United States of America, its States, and municipalities to develop 21st Century infrastructure in an expedient, cost effective, resourceful manner to create jobs and increase economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, overlapping and redundant environmental reviews often delay environmentally beneficial and important projects including public transit infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence in improving and expanding transportation infrastructure throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Public Transit Association, every \$1 invested in public transit results in \$4 in economic returns; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration estimates that 18,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion invested in highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the President and both Houses of Congress have proposed ambitious transportation investment programs and legislation to boost the nation's economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the cost of delay in implementing transportation projects can inhibit job creation as seen in one example cited by the Orange County (California) Transportation Authority in a 2011 report which detailed how a nine-year delay to a \$300 million construction project resulted in the loss of 3,050 jobs and \$92 million in GDP; and

WHEREAS, the independent, bipartisan National Surface Transportation Policy & Revenue Study Commission (Section 1909 Commission) cites that major highway projects take approximately 13 years from initiation to completion, while the average Federal Transit Administration New Starts transit project takes 10 + years to complete; and

WHEREAS, according to the Section 1909 Commission, significant delays to project delivery can increase the costs of projects by up to 7% annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, SAFETEA-LU recognized the importance of environmental streamlining and created a pilot programming allowing five states to assume all USDOT environmental responsibilities under NEPA; and

WHEREAS, Section 1322 of MAP-21 calls for a study by the Government Accountability Office to assess the opportunities and challenges to eliminate duplication of state and federal environmental reviews where state environmental laws are equal or more stringent than federal laws; and

WHEREAS, the intent of such policy is to maintain environmental protection while saving taxpayers valuable time and resources from unnecessary bureaucratic delay; and

WHEREAS, cities and regions with heavily traveled goods-movement corridors, ports, airports, and border crossings urgently require assistance to streamline project reviews to achieve national trade economic growth objectives and mitigate local community impacts; and

WHEREAS, some states have adopted environmental laws equal to or exceeding rigorous federal NEPA requirements that protect the environment, providing for public review, and mitigating impacts,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to allow states the opportunity to substitute their environmental laws for federal environmental laws where state laws are substantially equivalent to or exceed federal environmental laws, for the purposes of eliminating costly and duplicative reviews; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends Congress for enacting project delivery acceleration provisions in MAP-21.

Projected Cost: Unknown

PRIORITIZING NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, the world's population will increase from seven billion to nine billion within the next 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations projects a 72 percent increase in global urban living by 2050; and

WHEREAS, 82 percent of all Americans currently live in cities and more than half live in a coastal watershed; and

WHEREAS, economic losses in the United States from natural disasters in 2012 exceeded \$180 billion, much of it spent in coastal areas; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Civil Engineers recommends U.S. cities spend \$3.6 trillion to improve traditional infrastructure such as roads, levees and water mains, much of which is outdated and dilapidated; and

WHEREAS, many cities must rethink how to insure enough food, power and water for a growing population in the face of stronger, more destructive storms, sea level rise, and more frequent instances of drought and wildfire; and

WHEREAS, many cities are confronting increasingly urgent water quality and scarcity concerns; and

WHEREAS, improving air quality is a major priority of American mayors; and

WHEREAS, the connection between nature and American cities is inextricable; neither will thrive without consideration of the other; and

WHEREAS, groups such as The Nature Conservancy, other nonprofits, and state geological services can partner with local governments to identify and provide natural solutions; and

WHEREAS, nature offers a wealth of compounding benefits, such as more resilient coastlines, cleaner air and more robust and reliable freshwater supplies; and

WHEREAS, natural infrastructure is an effective alternative and companion to traditional gray infrastructure, is often more cost effective, promotes job creation, and provides compounding natural benefits to communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages its members to prioritize natural infrastructure and supports the funding and implementation of natural solutions to protect freshwater supplies, defend the nation's coastlines, maintain a healthy tree and greenspace cover and protect air quality, and create a new generation of environmental leaders, which ensures cities can support a growing population and prepare for the future; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors believes partnerships developed between local governments and non-profit organizations are an effective way to identify and implement opportunities for green infrastructure.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INVESTING IN OUR NATION’S
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO CREATE JOBS,
GROW LOCAL ECONOMIES, AND PROMOTE CLIMATE
RESILIENCE**

WHEREAS, water is the lifeline of American prosperity. It is the backbone of our economy and is essential to maintaining public health; and

WHEREAS, one-fifth of the U.S. economy—from agriculture, to mining, manufacturing, and electricity—would grind to halt without a reliable and clean supply of water; and

WHEREAS, the greatest public health achievement of the 20th century was the construction of reliable water and wastewater systems; and

WHEREAS, the water and wastewater systems that serve the United States are over 100 years old. The continued vitality and resiliency of American cities relies on this infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, after working around the clock for a century, water and wastewater systems are crumbling around us, threatening public health, the environment, and local economies; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Civil Engineers assigned U.S. water and wastewater systems a grade of D in 2013 and estimated 45% of all pipes in 2010 were in poor shape; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that an investment of \$4.8 trillion in capital outlays is needed over the next 20 years in order to bring water and wastewater systems to a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, emergency repairs to fix failed infrastructure are significantly more expensive than planned improvements that would prevent such failures, thereby increasing the urgency to find requisite funding; and

WHEREAS, changing weather patterns are impacting cities across the nation, further placing our water infrastructure in jeopardy and threatening the overall environmental and economic security in America. Unmitigated climate impacts could result in costs between 5 and 20 percent of global GDP; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency declared 62 major disasters in 2013, almost all of which had significant implications for water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, coastal cities are especially vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of climate change. For example, sea levels in the San Francisco Bay are predicted to rise about 16 inches by 2050; and

WHEREAS, investing in America’s water and wastewater systems is an important strategy to help communities be more resilient to a changing climate while safeguarding valuable water resources; and

WHEREAS, the declining state of water and wastewater infrastructure in the U.S. is a national issue that deserves attention from the federal government. Federal funding and support has declined, leaving local governments to fund 98% of all water and wastewater infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, investments in water infrastructure create jobs and stimulates economic activity. A \$1 billion investment in water infrastructure creates over 26,000 jobs nationwide. The Department of Commerce estimates that each job created in the water and wastewater industry at the local level creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent in the water industry yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries; and

WHEREAS, mayors and public utilities are seizing the opportunity to address the investment gap, create jobs, and build resilient communities. Around the country, cities are investing billions of dollars in their local water and wastewater systems and as a result they are putting people to work and growing their local economies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the United States Congress and the White House to recognize water infrastructure as a critical national asset in need of immediate attention and prioritize investments needed to bring the nation’s water systems up to a state of good repair; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to significantly increase the amount of and access to grants and low-cost capital, including but not limited to increased investments in State Revolving Funds, pilot programs such as the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority, Infrastructure Banks, and eligibility for public-private partnerships, and others, to accelerate investment in water infrastructure projects across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support workforce development programs in the water sector that will help cities prepare for a rapidly retiring workforce and help prepare the next generation of workers for quality employment opportunities in the water sector.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOCAL JURISDICTIONS IMPLEMENTING APPROVED INTEGRATED PLANS THAT FOLLOW THE EPA INTEGRATED PLANNING FRAMEWORK

WHEREAS, local governments provide the water and wastewater infrastructure that supplies clean and safe water for their communities; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions have a responsibility to protect and improve water quality in surface waterways to protect human health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, communities across the nation face tremendous costs associated with reducing overflows from sanitary and combined sewers, managing stormwater discharges, and improving the quality of effluent from their wastewater treatment plants, among other things, to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act and their NPDES permits; and

WHEREAS, local governments have a responsibility to maintain affordability for their citizens and utility ratepayers and to balance their resources across all their priorities; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recognized the need to assist communities in achieving these requirements; and

WHEREAS, the EPA issued its integrated planning framework in June 2012 in response to this need, by allowing local jurisdictions to prioritize wastewater and stormwater projects to meet Clean Water Act requirements based on benefits to water quality and human health; and

WHEREAS, the framework encourages innovative technologies, supports economic development and other community benefits, and considers a jurisdiction's financial capability; and

WHEREAS, the framework can provide local governments with an opportunity to reconsider projects that chase ever-smaller amounts of pollutants at very high costs and replace them with projects that achieve far greater outcomes at lower costs; and

WHEREAS, ultimately, the framework allows local governments to focus limited resources on actions that will provide the greatest environmental and public health benefits and may reduce the need to take future actions and incur future costs; and

WHEREAS, the EPA wants to encourage local jurisdictions to voluntarily develop and implement integrated plans, rather than spend precious resources on legal actions; and

WHEREAS, to encourage local governments to advance innovative clean water projects while minimizing the financial impacts on already stressed ratepayers and municipal budgets, it makes sense for the EPA to become a financial partner with communities, rather than working exclusively in the role of regulator,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. EPA administration to encourage the application of integrated planning for all environmental programs and permits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges EPA to expand its financial affordability guidance beyond median household income and include poverty rates, local and state tax rates, and other local conditions and direct states to abide by that guidance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to adopt legislation that specifies that not less than 10 percent but not more than 20 percent of the funds made available to each State for Clean Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants and not less than 20 percent but not more than 30 percent of the funds made available to each State for Drinking Water State Revolving Fund capitalization grants be used by the State to provide additional subsidy to eligible recipients in the form of forgiveness of principal, negative interest loans, or grants (or any combination of these).

Projected Cost: Unknown

STRATEGIC WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, the United States is a prosperous, growing nation in terms of population, urbanized areas, economy, agriculture and many other ways; and

WHEREAS, the availability of an abundant, secure supply of fresh water is essential for the sustainability of our nation's growth and quite literally to sustain life itself; and

WHEREAS, at the same time that demand for fresh water is continuing to increase substantially with the growth of this country, available fresh water resources are and have been shrinking due to over-depletion of aquifers (and other ground water resources), the silting up and shrinkage of surface water sources such as reservoirs and lakes, land reclamation projects at the expense of surface water storage basins, invasive species entering surface water basins, drought, contamination of freshwater resources, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the issue of strategic freshwater resource protection and development is of a critical nature to preserve and protect our citizens, our cities, our economy, our agricultural industry and our national security; and

WHEREAS, freshwater resource protection and development often has implications that cross well beyond city limits, regional lines, state lines and other natural and man-made borders; and

WHEREAS, coordinated planning and development of our nation's strategic freshwater resources will require a major, sustained commitment financially, years of research and perhaps decades to implement, thus compelling urgent action to avert a looming national crisis; and

WHEREAS, the financial means, expertise and other critical resources required to undertake this comprehensive national initiative is beyond the capability for cities, regional organizations or even individual states to perform; and

WHEREAS, no national policy now exists for the development of strategic freshwater reserves in the United States, nor for providing planning, coordination or implementation of any such policy; and

WHEREAS, a national policy to prioritize, coordinate and concentrate resources to supplement current conservation, water reuse and other programs must be effected if a national water crisis with implications too onerous to risk is to be avoided,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors does hereby request that all necessary legislation and/or executive orders be promulgated by Congress and the Office of the President of the United States to give direction to the U.S. Corps of Engineers or other cognizant agency(ies) to review, research and develop technically and financially feasible alternatives to address the following national strategic long-term freshwater development initiatives as a minimum:

- Develop methodologies for safe, high-volume recharging of the nation's freshwater aquifers. One method that may be explored is to utilize floodwaters within flood control basins so as to accommodate the dual purpose of reducing risk of floodwater overflows using the nation's levee, dike, retention, detention and other storm water collections/diversion facilities and recharging our aquifers by developing a process of filtering and then infusing said waters into groundwater storage basins on a high-volume basis; and
- Develop environmentally safe and practical methodologies for removal of excess silt from our nation's freshwater reservoirs and other surface waters. One method that may be explored is high large-volume vacuuming of settled silt which thereafter may be accumulated, dried and offered for reuse as agricultural soil, fill or other such beneficial purposes; and
- Develop more practical, environmentally safe methodologies for high-volume inter-basin freshwater transfer; and
- Develop streamlined processes for developing potential new surface water reservoirs, including but not limited to interstate surface water assets; and
- Develop more efficient, practical means for high volume and environmentally safe desalinization and related purification alternatives for use of saltwater, brackish water or other currently non-potable ground

Projected Cost: Unknown

**RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THAT MUNICIPAL CONCERNS ARE
ADDRESSED IN CLEAN WATER ACT REGULATIONS,
INCLUDING THE DEFINITION OF “WATERS OF THE U.S.”**

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act and implementing regulations of the past four decades recognize the partnership between federal, state, and local governments to achieve the objectives of the Act; and

WHEREAS, local governments have assumed an ever-increasing share of the cost of achieving those objectives both as a regulator and permittee to maintain and improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have proposed a rule to define “Waters of the U.S.” that could significantly increase the cost and regulatory requirements for local governments and ultimately the costs for local residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule and budget history for EPA and the USACE do not provide additional federal revenue nor anticipate assistance in the future to help meet the cost of this rule; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has adopted and maintains policy that opposes legislation to expand Federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act unless the associated costs are born solely and entirely by the Federal government and its agencies and not levied as an unfunded mandate on the public and private sectors; and

WHEREAS, much of the anticipated cost of this rule would be financed from municipal resources, and thus divert resources from other essential public services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that EPA and the USACE engage local governments and other stakeholders in drafting a rule that addresses to the satisfaction of local governments and other stakeholders the full economic impact for all sections of the Clean Water Act beyond Section 404 (e.g. Sections 301, 311, 401, 402); incorporates the conclusions of the Science Advisory Board; and fully addresses the concerns raised by local governments (listed below) and other federal agencies with water management and regulatory responsibilities prior to finalizing the rule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the rule include the following provisions that are priority concerns for local governments:

- Separate municipal storm sewers will continue to be regulated and permitted under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, and shall not be considered, either in their entirety or any individual feature thereof, Waters of the U.S.; and
- Green infrastructure developed to improve water quality or achieve multiple public benefits shall be encouraged and given priority consideration that does not impose additional financial and regulatory burdens of permittees and shall not be considered Waters of the United States; and
- Water delivery, reuse, and reclamation systems and facilities shall not be considered waters of the U.S.; and
- Ditches and other drainage features that protect and ensure the operation of public infrastructure shall not be considered waters of the U.S.; and
- Wastewater treatment systems and all associated infrastructure shall not be considered waters of the U.S.; and
- Any proposal to regulate waters within a floodplain, riparian, or any other general area must include a specific definition, including the specific boundaries, of the floodplain, riparian, or other area subject to the rule; and
- The rule must include sufficient clarity and specificity to better inform regulators and permittees and to minimize the potential for litigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that failure to address any one or all of these concerns shall be considered an unfunded mandate and the Federal government shall provide funding to local governments to address the cost of implementation.

Projected Cost: Unknown

REQUIRE THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY FOCUS ON THE SAFE TREATMENT AND STORAGE OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE ON-SITE WHERE APPROPRIATE TO MITIGATE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS OF TRANSPORTING LOW, HIGH AND MIXED LEVEL WASTE TO OFFSITE TREATMENT FACILITIES

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that the treatment of nuclear waste is a regional and national issue that requires the collaboration of all levels of government to develop practical and safe solutions; and

WHEREAS, nuclear waste treatment sites across the U. S. have documented leakage of strontium-90, tritium, uranium, and technetium-99, among other toxic pollutants, into the groundwater; and

WHEREAS, future receipt of off-site waste at these sites are projected to have significant adverse long-term impacts on the groundwater, which ultimately impact other bodies of water; and

WHEREAS, transporting low, high, and mixed level radioactive materials across the nation on major interstates, highways and railways will expose countless communities across the country to hazardous radiation; and

WHEREAS, a study by the Department of Energy several years ago estimated that over 800 adults would die from cancer due to radiation emitted from trucks in the Northwest region alone; and

WHEREAS, a truck or railway accident or terrorist attack involving transported low, high and mixed level nuclear waste would render entire cities and surrounding areas uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers, our nation's crumbling infrastructure and system of highways, roads, and bridges is rated a D+; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Energy has announced it intends to transport Uranium 233 waste from Tennessee to Nevada for burial at the Nevada National Security Site; and

WHEREAS, in February 2014 a truck delivering radioactive waste caught on fire at New Mexico's Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP); and

WHEREAS, in the event of a radiological emergency in or near a city, significant impacts could create a financial burden of millions of dollars to the emergency management agencies charged with protecting the health, safety and welfare of its citizens and visitors,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Department of Energy to focus on the treatment and storage of radioactive waste on-site to avoid further health and environmental impacts from the transportation of waste produced from other decommissioned nuclear facilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon its membership to be knowledgeable about the U.S. Department of Energy's planned routes, quantities, and timing to ship radioactive Uranium 233 waste along 2,000+ miles between Tennessee and Nevada.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ADVANCING U.S. METRO ECONOMIC GROWTH THROUGH COLLABORATION AND TRADE IN THE AMERICAS

WHEREAS, U.S. cities and metropolitan areas are increasingly connected to their counterparts in Mexico and Canada, as well as the rest of Latin America, through economic relationships – trade, foreign direct investment, migration, educational exchange, and integrated cross-border production of goods within industry clusters; and

WHEREAS, the economies of the U.S., Mexico, and Canada have never been more intertwined in co-production and trade, generating one-third of total international Gross Domestic Product and exporting over \$1.2 trillion in goods to the rest of the world; and

WHEREAS, value-add in North American export industries like aerospace, automotive, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, electronics, and medical devices occurs in multiple locations across the U.S., Mexico, and Canada, spanning both manufacturing and services; and

WHEREAS, of the 300,000 American companies that now export, 98 percent are small and medium-sized businesses; and

WHEREAS, export-related jobs pay 13-18 percent more on average than non-export related jobs; and

WHEREAS, automobiles produced in North America for export to the rest of the world total \$77 billion per year, and auto parts across a North American national border on an average of eight times prior to final assembly; and

WHEREAS, for example, production of Bombardier's Learjet 85 involves research and development in Montreal, component manufacturing in Querétaro, and design and assembly in Wichita, reflecting distinct specializations of those metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, regional supply chains in advanced industries have united North American metropolitan economies, such that 40% of the content in goods imported to the U.S. from Mexico was actually made in the U.S., and 25% of the content from Canada, compared to 4% from China; and

WHEREAS, the population of Latin America exceeds 600 million people, and includes a rapidly urbanizing and growing young middle class with purchasing power, generating increased demand for high-value U.S. products and services to meet consumer and infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, growth in U.S. trade with Latin America historically has outpaced that of all other regions, with an annual trade surplus of more than \$12 billion in 2012, and U.S. foreign direct investment in Latin America exceeding \$140 billion; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the 20 existing U.S. Free Trade Agreements are with Latin American countries; and

WHEREAS, competition for trade with and investment in Latin America is intensifying, evidenced by trade with Asia expanding to 20% of the Latin America total, and China expanding from 1% to 10% of the region's foreign direct investment over the past decade; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and President Peña Nieto have established a "High Level Economic Dialogue" led at the cabinet level "to advance strategic economic and commercial priorities central to promoting economic growth, job creation, and global competitiveness," such as cooperation on infrastructure, innovation, entrepreneurship, human capital, and other assets; and

WHEREAS, President Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Harper committed in January 2011, to two initiatives that would reduce barriers to the movement of people, goods, and services between the U.S. and Canada – Beyond The Border and The Regulatory Cooperative Council; and

WHEREAS, mayors and other elected, business, and civic leaders in U.S. cities and metro areas have the local industry knowledge, networks, and capacity to make international trade and investment an integral part of regional economic development efforts; and

WHEREAS, these U.S. regional leaders have not maximized their potential influence in advancing policies that support the international trade and competitiveness agenda for metro areas in driving national economic growth,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors commits to a priority focus on strengthening international trade in the Americas through its policy and programmatic efforts – both improving the competitiveness of the North American economic platform, and increasing economic linkages with Canadian, and Central and South American metro areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors will seek to advance and advocate specific recommendations addressing topics such as trade facilitation, supply-chain harmonization, infrastructure investment, efficient movement of goods and people, innovation, and workforce skills; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors will host an International Trade Summit in Los Angeles within one year of the execution of this resolution with Mayors from Mexico and Canada on establishing cross-border business opportunities for small and medium-sized companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the U.S.-Mexico “High Level Economic Dialogue,” and the U.S.-Canada agreement of January 2011, and urges the Administration to proactively seek the involvement of sub-national leaders in identifying and exploring policy priorities for that effort; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration to help expand opportunities for mayors and their regional partners to engage with sub-national counterparts throughout the Americas, focused on policy and practices that facilitate commercial connections and shared economic growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation’s mayors support and call on the Administration to pursue 21st century trade agreements that support additional U.S. jobs while helping American manufacturers, service providers, farmers and ranchers increase U.S. exports and compete in a highly competitive, globalized economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation’s mayors support a high standard agreement that benefits America’s workers, manufacturers, farmers, ranchers, growers, service providers, and businesses by opening markets for goods and services, and address non-tariff measures that restrict trade and investment in the Pacific Rim and Europe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation’s mayors support a trade promotion authority that includes notification and consultation with Congress, with the private sector and other stakeholders and with the public during the negotiations of trade agreements.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL EXPORT INITIATIVE AND EFFORTS TO EXPAND EXPORTS

WHEREAS, exports are critical to the American economy and fuel economic growth in our communities, support good middle class jobs, and unlock opportunity for American companies and entrepreneurs; and

WHEREAS, according to The United States Conference of Mayors, U.S. Metro Reports and IHS Global Insight, nearly one-third of the nation's future economic growth will be derived from expanding exports; and

WHEREAS, current levels of exports account for nearly 14 percent of the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, nearly 90% of the nation's exports are generated from the nation's metro economies, with businesses achieving record exports for four consecutive years and achieving a record \$2.3 trillion in 2013 and supporting 11.3 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, 300,000 American companies now export, 98 percent of which are small and medium-sized businesses; and

WHEREAS, export-related jobs pay 13-18 percent more on average than non-export related jobs; and

WHEREAS, only 58 percent of those companies export to only one market; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors, as a member of the President's Export Council, has long advocated for increased trade as a key element of economic recovery and growth; and

WHEREAS, the rising middle class in developing and developed economies represents significant opportunity to sell American-made products to billions of new global consumers; and

WHEREAS, the emerging global economies are slated to grow at significantly higher rates than traditional economies, thereby representing opportunities for the U.S. to export both goods and services at rates beneficial to the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, trade agreements are currently being negotiated with 12 countries – Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, New Zealand, Peru, and the United States – representing approximately 40 percent of global GDP, one-third of global trade, and including three of America's four top trading partners (Canada, Mexico and Japan),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly supports the Administration's next phase of the National Export Initiative, and applauds the U.S. Department of Commerce and its International Trade Administration's efforts to expand the availability of industry-specific information assistance to help U.S. businesses expand their global customer base; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors support NEI-NEXT's efforts to streamline U.S. export-related services, reporting requirements and processes; expand access to financing; assist developed and developing economies improve their business environments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors will work with NEI-NEXT to continue efforts to incorporate export development strategies into regional and city economic development strategies and to develop outreach programs to small and medium-sized businesses which are often unfamiliar or uncertain about exports processes and risks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors support and call on Congress to reauthorize the Export-Import Bank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors support and call on the Administration to pursue 21st century trade agreements that support additional U.S. jobs while helping American manufacturers, service providers, farmers and ranchers increase U.S. exports and compete in a highly competitive, globalized economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors support a high standard agreement that benefits America's workers, manufacturers, farmers, ranchers, growers, services providers, and businesses by opening markets for goods and services, and address non-tariff measures that restrict trade and investment in the Pacific Rim and Europe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors support a trade promotion authority that includes notification and consultation with Congress, with the private sector and other stakeholders and with the public during the negotiations of trade agreements.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**VOICING SUPPORT FOR THE VENEZUELAN DEMONSTRATORS
PERSECUTED AND JAILED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF
VENEZUELA; DEMANDING A HALT TO THE MISTREATMENT
AND PERSECUTION OF THE DEMONSTRATORS AND THE
RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS; AND REQUESTING
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES AND THE U.N.
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE THE
MISTREATMENT OF THE DEMONSTRATORS AND POLITICAL
PRISONERS**

WHEREAS, in the last year, the Government of Venezuela has initiated a public campaign of violence, intimidation, mistreatment and jailing of opposition leaders and anti-government demonstrators that has resulted in at least six deaths and more than 100 injuries over the past week; and

WHEREAS, the actions of the Government of Venezuela are inconsistent with the basic rights that all humans are entitled to, and inconsistent with the general principles of a democratic society the Government of Venezuela purports to be, such as freedom of assembly, freedom of the press and equal and fair treatment of all individuals irrespective of their political beliefs and views; and

WHEREAS, it is a civil rights and human imperative that support and solidarity be offered to the demonstrators in Venezuela and that the Organization of American States and U.N. Commission on Human Rights intervene on behalf of the demonstrators,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors condemns the actions of the Venezuelan Government and voices its support for the Venezuelan opposition leaders and demonstrators that are the subject of violence, intimidation, mistreatment and jailing by the Venezuelan Government; denounces their abuse and demands a halt to all mistreatment and calls for the release of all political prisoners; and requests the Organization of American States and the U.N. Commission on Human Rights to investigate the mistreatment of the demonstrators.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CREATING JOBS THROUGH INCREASED TRAVEL TO THE U.S.

WHEREAS, last year (2013), the \$888 billion travel industry generated \$2.1 trillion in total economic output and has the potential to grow – and to grow fast; and

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States in particular is one of the most effective forms of economic stimulus. In 2013, spending by international visitors directly supported 1.2 million American jobs and generated \$181 billion in U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, increasing international travel in the United States is effective economic stimulus. When international visitors travel to the United States, they inject new money into the U.S. economy by staying in U.S. hotels, eating at U.S. restaurants, spending in U.S. stores, and visiting U.S. attractions; and

WHEREAS, international business travelers often attend conferences and trade shows in the U.S., and engage in face-to-face negotiations that yield sales of U.S. commercial goods and services; and

WHEREAS, expenditures made by international visitors made up one out of every 6.5 dollars spent by travelers in the United States. The travel industry generated a record international trade surplus of \$57 billion in 2013; and

WHEREAS, as a means to create jobs and economic development through trade and tourism, the legislation authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to admit into the United States a qualifying Canadian citizen over 50 years old and his or her spouse for a period not to exceed 240 days if the person 1) maintains a Canadian residence and 2) owns a U.S. residence or has rented a U.S. accommodation for the duration of such stay, and

WHEREAS, the employment recovery in the travel industry has outpaced the rest of the economy and much of this employment growth is being supported by the spending of international visitors traveling in the United States. Of the 131,000 jobs added in the travel industry in 2013, more than a two in five was supported by international travel spending; and

WHEREAS, the most lucrative segment of international travel for the United States is the overseas market. These visitors tend to stay longer and spend more money while in the United States. On average, every overseas visitor spends \$4,500 during their trip to the United States compared with less than \$1,000 for Canadian and Mexican visitors. In fact, the spending from every 34 overseas visitors traveling in the United States supports one U.S. job; and

WHEREAS, if the U.S. could regain 17 percent of global long-haul travel market share by 2020, the U.S. would receive 59.5 million overseas arrivals, \$265.4 billion in travel spending, and 1.4 million travel jobs in 2020. This means, the U.S. would gain an additional 49.8 million visitors and \$222 billion in travel spending cumulatively from 2014 to 2020, generating 452,000 new jobs over the current (2013) level; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to appropriate countries increases United States security; and

WHEREAS, VWP was created by Congress in 1986 to facilitate overseas business and leisure travel to the United States— and amended in 2007 so that it significantly enhances homeland security in addition to facilitating travel; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, countries included in the VWP were the largest source of inbound travel, sending from overseas more than 19 million visitors, or 60 percent of all overseas visitors, to the United States (i.e. international visitors other than those from our next-door neighbors Canada and Mexico); and

WHEREAS, in 2013, VWP visitors spent \$79 billion while traveling to and within the U.S., directly supporting more than half a million American jobs along with \$13 billion in payroll and generating \$12 billion in tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted legislation supporting an effort to develop and conduct a pilot program using secure videoconferencing technology to interview visa applicants in order to allow applicants greater access to the U.S. visa application process,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and the Congress to enact this year the pending Jobs Through Launching Travel Act (JOLT Act/H.R. 1354), to implement the following sensible reforms to the U.S. visa process:

- Based on available data concerning travel habits, booking patterns, and generally accepted marketing principles, the Secretary of State shall set a standard of processing 90 percent of all visa interviews within 10 business days; and
- The Secretary of Homeland Security should regain authority to expand the Visa Waiver Program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to countries with visa refusal rates up to 10 percent; and
- The Secretary of State should develop “premium processing” system to expedite short-term tourist and business visas for a fee; and

- The State Department should use the Congressional authority it has to conduct a pilot program using secure videoconferencing technology to interview visa applicants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the concept of extended legal stays by our neighbors who own or rent a residence in our country, but calls on the Congress to amend the legislation to extend its benefits to any resident of a bordering nation that meets all of the criteria set out in the bill.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**URGING PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA TO SUSPEND
DEPORTATIONS OF UNDOCUMENTED VENEZUELAN WITH
NO CRIMINAL HISTORY AND URGING THE UNITED STATES
SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO IMMEDIATELY
DESIGNATE VENEZUELAN IMMIGRANTS FOR TEMPORARY
PROTECTED STATUS**

WHEREAS, the United States has a growing Venezuelan population, some of whom are undocumented Venezuelan immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Venezuelans have greatly contributed to the progress of the United States at large; and

WHEREAS, there are severe humanitarian consequences of deporting undocumented Venezuelans due to the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary conditions in Venezuela; and

WHEREAS, deportation of undocumented Venezuelan parents harms young children, who are often left without parental guidance or care and in a highly unstable financial situation; and

WHEREAS, in 2012 there were 11.7 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, according to the PEW Hispanic Center; and

WHEREAS, there were 368,644 deportations from the United States in 2013, according to United States Immigrations and Customs Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, America's immigration system is broken; and

WHEREAS, legislation to reform immigration policy was passed by the United States Senate on June 27, 2013; and

WHEREAS, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security has the power to grant Temporary Protected Status to nationals of certain countries for humanitarian causes; and

WHEREAS, currently, immigrants from countries granted Temporary Protected Status include immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, and Nicaragua,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges President Barack Obama to suspend deportations of undocumented Venezuelans with no criminal history and urges the United States Secretary of Homeland Security to immediately designate Venezuelan immigrants for Temporary Protected Status.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**RECOGNIZING U.S. LEADERSHIP IN PROTECTING REFUGEES
AND CELEBRATING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF REFUGEES TO
THEIR NEW COMMUNITIES IN THE U.S.**

WHEREAS, World Refugee Day is observed on the 20th of June each year; and

WHEREAS, more than 45 million people around the world have been forced to flee their homes and their countries due to persecution, conflict and violence; and

WHEREAS, refugees are persons in need of protection because they have been persecuted for their political opinion, religious belief, race, nationality or membership in a particular social group; and

WHEREAS, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), in carrying out its mandate to protect, assist and find durable solutions for refugees, relies on the steadfast support and leadership of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the United States has since its inception been a beacon of hope for those seeking peace and protection from persecution, and has generously opened its doors to some 3 million refugees over the past four decades; and

WHEREAS, the United States refugee resettlement program, led by the Department of State and the Department of Health and Human Services, is a unique and robust public-private partnership of the federal government, state and local governments, non-profit agencies and countless individuals; and

WHEREAS, the generosity of states, counties, cities, and towns across the United States is essential to improving the lives of these refugees arriving in the United States - providing them with the opportunity to find new homes, to reunite with families and to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, refugees arriving in the United States have contributed their talents, knowledge, cultures, and entrepreneurship to enrich and strengthen the social and economic fabric of the communities that have welcomed them; and

WHEREAS, refugees and their children have become citizens of the United States, and have gone on to make significant contributions to science and the arts, public and military service, education and academia, business and industry, medicine and health care, entertainment and sports,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts of the federal government to ensure that the United States resettlement program remains responsive to the needs of refugees and of the communities who host them; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges its members to facilitate the meaningful participation of refugees in discussions when issues or actions that affect refugees are being considered; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors continues to promote the welcome and integration of refugees into their new communities in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors expresses its solidarity with the mayors of cities and towns around the world who are providing protection, shelter and aid to millions of refugees and displaced persons; and encourages the continued efforts of the United States, the UNHCR and the international community to help these vulnerable individuals and families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors thus recognizes June 20th 2014, as World Refugee Day.

Projected Cost: None

**IN SUPPORT OF CITIES FOR CEDAW INITIATIVE AND
ENCOURAGING CITIES TO IMPLEMENT THE PRINCIPLES OF
THE UN CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS
OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN**

WHEREAS, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 18, 1979, became an international treaty as of September 3, 1981, and 186 UN member nations, have agreed to be bound by CEDAW's provisions; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW provides a comprehensive framework for governments to examine their policies and practices in relation to women and girls and to rectify discrimination based on sex against half the world's population; and

WHEREAS, although women have made major gains in the struggle for equality in most fields, much more needs to be accomplished to fully eradicate discrimination based on sex and to achieve one of the most basic human rights, equality; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the only industrialized nation to not yet ratify CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, it has been almost 40 years since the first UN World Conference on Women and almost 20 years since the historic Beijing Platform for Action; and

WHEREAS, CEDAW has proven effective in many nations as a mechanism to advance gender equality, and

WHEREAS, many communities and states have called for ratification of CEDAW by the United States Congress, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco became the first city in the world to adopt an ordinance reflecting the principles of CEDAW in 1998; and Los Angeles followed in 2004 and

WHEREAS, Cities for CEDAW was launched at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2014; and

WHEREAS, a local CEDAW resolution or ordinance seeks three standards; a gender analysis of city departments and commissions, an oversight body to ensure that appropriate and timely actions are taken; and funding to support the implementation of the principles of CEDAW; and

WHEREAS, city and county governments have an appropriate and legitimate role in affirming the importance of international law in communities as universal norms and to serve as guides for public policy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges cities across the United States to join San Francisco and Los Angeles, participate in the Cities for CEDAW initiative, and pass local resolutions or ordinances reflecting the principles of CEDAW.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CALLING FOR CONSTRUCTIVE GOOD FAITH U.S. PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT FORUMS

WHEREAS, Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which entered into force in 1970, and is part of the supreme law of the land pursuant to Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, states: “Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”; and

WHEREAS, in 1996, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the judicial branch of the United Nations (UN) and the highest court in the world on questions of international law, issued an authoritative interpretation of Article VI, unanimously concluding: “There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control”; and

WHEREAS, forty-four years after the NPT entered into force, an estimated 16,400 nuclear weapons, most held by the U.S. and Russia, pose an intolerable threat to humanity, and there are no disarmament negotiations on the horizon; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. and the eight other nuclear weapon possessing states are investing an estimated \$100 billion annually to maintain and modernize their nuclear arsenals while actively planning to deploy nuclear weapons for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the U.S.- Russian conflict over the Ukraine may lead to a new era of confrontation between nuclear-armed powers, and nuclear tensions in the Middle East, Southeast Asia and on the Korean peninsula remind us that the potential for nuclear war is ever present; and

WHEREAS, in December 2012, the UN General Assembly established a working group open to all member states (the “Open-Ended Working Group”) “to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons,” and scheduled for September 26, 2013 the first-ever High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly devoted to nuclear disarmament; and

WHEREAS, in December 2013, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution which: “Calls for the urgent commencement of negotiations, in the Conference on Disarmament, for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction;” “Decides to convene, no later than 2018, a United Nations high-level international conference on nuclear disarmament to review the progress

made in this regard;” and “Declares 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons devoted to furthering this objective, including through enhancing public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination;” and

WHEREAS, delegations representing 146 States, the UN, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement and civil society organizations participated in the Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons held in Nayarit, Mexico, February 13 – 14, 2014, to discuss global and long-term consequences of any nuclear detonation, accidental or deliberate, including impacts on public health, humanitarian assistance, the economy, the environment, climate change, food security and risk management; and

WHEREAS, Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, Mexico’s Vice Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Chair of the Nayarit Conference, concluded: “The broad-based and comprehensive discussions on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons should lead to the commitment of States and civil society to reach new international standards and norms, through a legally binding instrument...[The] time has come to initiate a diplomatic process conducive to this goal... compris[ing] a specific timeframe, the definition of the most appropriate fora, and a clear and substantive framework... The 70th anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki attacks is the appropriate milestone to achieve our goal”; and

WHEREAS, August 6 and 9, 2015 will mark the 70th anniversaries of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which killed more than 210,000 people by the end of 1945, while the remaining “hibakusha” (A-bomb survivors) continue to suffer from the physical and psychological effects of the bombings; and

WHEREAS, the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) continue to suffer from the health and environmental impacts of 67 above-ground nuclear weapons test explosions conducted by the U.S. in their islands between 1946 and 1958, the equivalent of 1.6 Hiroshima-sized bombs detonated daily for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, the RMI on April 24, 2014 filed landmark cases in the ICJ against the U.S. and the eight other nuclear-armed nations claiming that they have failed to comply with their obligations, under the NPT and customary international law, to pursue negotiations for the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons, and filed a companion case in U.S. Federal District Court; and

WHEREAS, the Administration’s FY 2015 budget request for maintenance and modernization of nuclear bombs and warheads, at more than \$8.7 billion, in constant dollars exceeds the amount spent in 1985 for comparable work at the height of President Reagan’s surge in nuclear weapons spending, which was the highest point of Cold War spending; and

WHEREAS, this enormous commitment to modernizing nuclear bombs and warheads and the laboratories and factories to support those activities does not include even larger amounts of funding for planned replacements of delivery systems – the bombers, missiles and submarines that form the strategic triad; in total, according to the General Accounting Office, the U.S. will spend more than \$700 billion over the next 30 years to maintain and modernize nuclear weapons systems; the James Martin Center places the number at an astounding one trillion dollars; and

WHEREAS, this money is desperately needed to address basic human needs such as housing, food security, education, healthcare, public safety, education and environmental protection; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has adopted resolutions each year since 2010 calling for deep cuts in nuclear weapons spending and redirection of those funds to meet the needs of cities and adopted an additional resolution in 2011 “Calling on Congress to Redirect Military Spending to Domestic Needs”; and in 2013 called on the U.S. to participate in good faith in the UN Open-Ended Working Group and High-Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament, and the Nayarit Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons; and

WHEREAS, Mayors for Peace continues to advocate for the immediate commencement of negotiations to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020 and its membership has grown ten fold since the “2020 Vision Campaign” was launched in 2003, surpassing 6,000 members in 158 countries, representing one seventh of the world’s population; and Mayors for Peace, with members in the U.S. and Russia; India and Pakistan, and Israel, Palestine and Iran can be a real force for peace,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its deep concern that the UN Open-Ended Working Group on nuclear disarmament and the Nayarit Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons took place without the participation of the U.S., Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China; that at the September 26, 2013 UN High-Level Meeting on nuclear disarmament, the U.S. joined with France and the UK in a profoundly negative statement, delivered by a junior British diplomat: “While we are encouraged by the increased energy and enthusiasm around the nuclear disarmament debate, we regret that this energy is being directed toward initiatives such as this High-Level Meeting, the humanitarian consequences campaign, the Open-Ended Working Group and the push for a Nuclear Weapons Convention”; and that the U.S. voted against the 2013 UN General Assembly resolution calling for urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a nuclear weapons convention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. to participate constructively and in good faith in the Third Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons to be hosted by Austria in Vienna, December 8 – 9, 2014, and to press the other nuclear weapon states to do likewise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. to participate constructively and in good faith in urgent commencement of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament for the early conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, and to press the other nuclear weapon states to do likewise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Republic of the Marshall Islands for calling to the world’s attention the failure of the nine nuclear-armed states to comply with their international obligations to pursue negotiations for the worldwide elimination of nuclear weapons, and calls on the U.S. to respond constructively and in good faith to the lawsuits brought by the RMI; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. to demonstrate a good faith commitment to its disarmament obligation under Article VI of the NPT by commencing a process to negotiate the global elimination of nuclear weapons within a timebound framework, under strict and effective international control, at the May 2015 NPT Review Conference, and to press the other nuclear weapon states to do likewise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges President Obama to engage in intensive diplomatic efforts to reverse the deteriorating U.S. relationship with Russia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the President and Congress to reduce nuclear weapons spending to the minimum necessary to assure the safety and security of the existing weapons as they await disablement and dismantlement, and to redirect those funds to meet the urgent needs of cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on its membership to Proclaim September 26 in their cities as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and to support activities to enhance public awareness and education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors welcomes the appointment of Akron, Ohio and Mayor Donald Plusquellic as a Mayors for Peace regional lead city, and encourages all U.S. mayors for join Mayors for Peace; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors expresses its continuing support for and cooperation with Mayors for Peace.

Projected cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF VENEZUELAN MAYORS AND THE DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF VENEZUELA

WHEREAS, daily protests, led by Venezuelan students, continue in cities throughout Venezuela, and the repression against these peaceful protests by the government of Nicolas Maduro has grown more violent and oppressive.

WHEREAS, over 3,000 people have been detained for exercising their constitutional right to protest peacefully.

WHEREAS, a May 2014 Human Rights Watch report maintains that judges and prosecutors in Venezuela have repeatedly ignored evidence of systematic human rights abuses by government security forces, and dozens of unarmed protesters have been subject to serious physical and psychological abuse during protests that have left at least 41 dead since February, 2014.

WHEREAS, freely-elected mayors in Venezuela have been subjected to intimidation and persecution for standing in opposition to the government; and

WHEREAS, the actions of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro of jailing three Venezuelan current and former Mayors, simply on the basis of their opposition to his policies, have called into question that country's commitment to democracy and instead suggests a concerted and desperate effort of political persecution.

WHEREAS, Leopoldo Lopez, the former Mayor of Chacao, accused of “inciting protests,” turned himself in on February 18, 2014 and remains imprisoned without a fair trial or having been allowed even a preliminary hearing to date.

WHEREAS, opposition Mayor Enzo Scarano, of San Diego, was arrested and removed from his posts illegally and unconstitutionally and was sentenced to a 10 ½ month prison term on the very day he was arrested for “failing to have protesters barricades removed from the streets of his city.”

WHEREAS, opposition Mayor Daniel Ceballos, whose city of San Cristobal is at the epicenter of the protests, was arrested for “rebellion and conspiracy” and was sentenced within days of his arrest to a year in prison. Referring to Mayor Ceballos, President Maduro had previously suggested that “it’s a matter of time until we have him in the same cold cell.”

WHEREAS, such actions are directly limiting the authority of freely-elected political opponents and undermine constitutionally-guaranteed freedoms of speech and expression in Venezuela, and these actions must be clearly viewed as attacks on constitutional government and popular electoral expressions of citizen sovereignty, and

WHEREAS, in 2008 in solidarity with the democratic aspirations of the people of Venezuela, the United States Conference of Mayors highlighted and condemned the summary disqualification of 400 otherwise-eligible candidates for elected office by the administrative act of a government agency without affording due judicial process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors stands in solidarity with the democratic aspirations of our Venezuelan colleagues and the people of Venezuela in order to insure that their democratic, civil and human rights are honored and respected, including their basic rights to oppose the government in place today; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors unequivocally condemns the intimidation and persecution of freely-elected mayors in Venezuela who stand in political opposition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the US Conference of Mayors calls on President Maduro to honor the tenets of democracy by immediately putting a halt to the repression of opposing views, and to allow Mayors Lopez, Scarano and Ceballos and others to exercise their right to opposition in freedom, without the fear of further persecution and arrest; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this policy resolution be presented to the United States House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs, the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and the United States Department of State and that representations be made to the official representatives of the Government of Venezuela in the United States.

Projected Cost: Unknown

JOBS, EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

THE PRESIDENT'S EARLY LEARNING AGENDA

WHEREAS, President Obama outlined a comprehensive early learning agenda in his State of the Union Address, calling upon Congress and the Administration to expand access to high-quality early childhood programs such as Head Start, public pre-K, childcare, and private preschools; and

WHEREAS, participation in early learning programs will help children from all socioeconomic backgrounds to better realize their full potential by preventing achievement gaps and providing a strong foundation to improve their likelihood to succeed later in school and in life; and

WHEREAS, children three years and younger represent a critically important window for a child's academic, social, and cognitive development; and

WHEREAS, numerous economic studies have demonstrated that these programs are a smart public investment that can generate a significant return on investment for society with a rate of return of \$7 or more for each dollar invested through a reduced need for spending on other services, such as remedial education, grade repetition, and special education; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has invested in comprehensive improvements to state early learning systems through Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has taken steps to reform and improve Head Start services by implementing new accountability standards and focusing on school readiness results; and

WHEREAS, nearly one million children under the age of five benefit from Head Start services while the Administration seeks to expand those programs to additional children in vulnerable communities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has announced a proposed Federal investment in Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships through new competitive grants to support states and communities in expanding high quality, full-day early learning and development opportunities for infants and toddlers that meet the needs of working families and prepare children for the transition into preschool; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed the Preschool for All Initiative, in which the U.S. Department of Education would allocate dollars to states to distribute to local school districts and partners to implement preschool services for low- and moderate-income families,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports President Obama's early childhood education agenda and the Administration's investments in Head Start, Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships, and the Race to the Top: Early Learning Challenge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to act upon President Obama's calls to expand access to early childhood education programs through the proposed Preschool for All Initiative.

Projected Cost: Unknown

UNIVERSAL CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS AS A MEANS OF ELIMINATING INCOME-BASED ACHIEVEMENT GAPS

WHEREAS, 40 percent of children ages 3 to 5 are not enrolled in child care, preschool, or kindergarten; and

WHEREAS, 35-45 percent of American schoolchildren are poorly prepared to succeed in school at kindergarten entry; and

WHEREAS, unequal access and quality of childcare and early childhood education programs produces a disparity in student learning and development which further contributes to achievement gaps; and

WHEREAS, childcare and early childhood education programs that are universally accessible create an opportunity to raise children's developmental proficiencies and their capacity to have lifelong success in the education system; and

WHEREAS, exposure to high-quality childcare and early childhood education programs can boost social, moral, physical and cognitive development, among children from low-income families; and

WHEREAS, investment in early childhood education programs for low income children from birth to age five reduces special education enrollment, grade retention, and behavioral problems; and

WHEREAS, investment in early childhood education programs for low income children from birth to age five increases high school graduate rates, earnings in adulthood and mental health; and

WHEREAS, every dollar invested in high-quality early childhood education produces a seven to ten percent annual return on investment; and

WHEREAS, effective preschool programs produce strong academic and social gains for all children, even though gains for low-income children are larger,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S Conference of Mayors supports increasing funding for high-quality early childhood education and childcare programs that are universally accessible and supports and advocates for the inclusion of Pre-K funding as part of K-12 funding formulas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges Cities and Independent School Districts/Schools to create universally accessible childcare and early childhood education programs within their municipality that:

- Are designed to be accessible to all children, particularly children from low-income families, children of working parents, English Language Learners, children of color and at-risk youth; and
- Use rigorous program standards that have been set in conjunction with the local childcare planning council or State Department of Education in order to monitor and assess program quality, ongoing program effectiveness and improvements in student achievement; and
- Integrates multiple preschool providers in order to support a comprehensive early childhood education network including: Head Start programs, private child care centers, and state preschool providers; and
- Offers subsidies to participating early childhood education and childcare providers for facility improvements in order to better their physical learning environments; and
- Facilitate professional development opportunities for staff members in order to provide them with the means to gain further credentials and additional skills; and
- Foster collaborative partnerships between the private early childhood education providers, school districts, counties / parishes, and state government; and
- Have the Mayor play a significant leadership role in the programs creation, expansion and continuation; and
- Leverage matching funds and draws upon a variety of public and private funding sources in order to ensure fiscal sustainability, such as: Development impact fees, Head Start, state preschool, county / parish funding, and foundation grants.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO BUILDING AN EARLY LEARNING NATION BY THE YEAR 2025

WHEREAS, over the past 238 years major eras in the history of the United States have been frequently marked and recognized by the transference of scientific research, scientific breakthrough and scientific invention into the mainstream of daily life, leading in turn to new growth, enhanced opportunities and innovative change; and

WHEREAS, social researchers and sociologists are identifying babies born between 2010 and 2025 as ‘Generation Alpha,’ and are claiming this generation will be the most formally educated generation in history, beginning school earlier and studying for longer than those from previous generations; and

WHEREAS, Generation Alpha members will be second only to the Baby Boomer generation in population numbers, consisting of more than 70 million children aged between birth to 15 in the year 2025; and

WHEREAS, the latest neuroscience research into child development clearly shows the profound and lasting benefits of every day and in-the-moment interactions between parent or caregiver and child, and that these parent or caregiver/child interactions require no expensive purchases of toys or equipment to achieve these benefits; and

WHEREAS, scientific research clearly shows positive parenting and caregiving in early childhood, starting at birth, is a key contributor to lifelong health and productivity; and

WHEREAS, advances in neuroscience, developmental psychology and prevention science provide compelling evidence that the foundation for health or disease is established in early childhood; and

WHEREAS, these scientific advances show it is possible for children to achieve their potential as a result of parent and child interactions in the critical brain development years of birth to three; and

WHEREAS, high quality early learning in the critical years from birth to three has been proven to reduce placements in special education, reduce grade retention, boost graduation rates, decrease teen pregnancy rates, reduce violent crime, juvenile delinquency and incarceration, and increases the odds of long-term employment; and

WHEREAS, we are committed to providing unparalleled opportunities for the children of Generation Alpha so they do not become part of a ‘lost generation,’ making this an imperative of moral and national urgency to provide early learning for all children, particularly in the critical brain-building years from birth to three,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a movement committed to engaging every community and particularly parents and caregivers in daily brain-building moments with their children, while highlighting the ease and developmental importance supported by the latest scientific research of these conversational moments between adult and child; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports designating the decade of 2015 – 2025 as an era of community focus in building an Early Learning Nation so, in turn, the children of Generation Alpha emerge equipped and prepared to resolve issues, assume leadership positions, while generating innovative and long-term solutions for previously intractable and seemingly unsolvable challenges.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS WITH RIGOROUS AND COMPARABLE ASSESSMENTS

WHEREAS, the development of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers demonstrates a locally-led national movement of governors and state commissioners of education from 48 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia towards improved academic standards for our students; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core State Standards represent a policy innovation that allows for an unprecedented level of continuity among states, grades, and subjects, and incorporates feedback from teachers and content experts, as well as the general public; and

WHEREAS, researchers find that American students have mediocre annual growth in math, reading, and science; the U.S. performs in the middle of the pack of 49 countries; and

WHEREAS, Common Core State Standards are internationally benchmarked with top-performing countries; and

WHEREAS, Common Core State Standards represent a substantial upgrade in terms of rigor and expectations for student learning, and the standards have been widely accepted among states: 45 states and the District of Columbia have voluntarily adopted the full standards and have committed to implementing them by 2014; and

WHEREAS, improved standards and accountability have already increased student achievement, particularly for the most disadvantaged students; and

WHEREAS, some states face the threat of state officials repealing the Common Core State Standards and its ongoing implementation; and

WHEREAS, although most states know they need new standards and assessments for their students, some are still willing to disrupt the progress made over the past three years; and

WHEREAS, at the behest of political opposition, some states have withdrawn from Common Core State Standards assessment consortia, such as the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers; and

WHEREAS, all states that have adopted the CCSS have already invested millions of dollars in CCSS implementation; and

WHEREAS, states and school districts that earned waivers from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act requirements put those at risk should they follow through with a withdrawal or repeal of the Common Core State Standards; and

WHEREAS, students across the country will continue to benefit from more rigorous and comparable standards that are internationally benchmarked with the world's top performing nations; and

WHEREAS, rigorous and comparable data from stronger assessments will equip state and local leaders with more accurate information to inform them how to provide professional development that is tailored to individual teachers' needs; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors passed a resolution committing to the advancement of implementation of Common Core State Standards without delay,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support for the ongoing implementation of Common Core State Standards in all available states, including the development of appropriately rigorous companion assessments and continued funding for professional development, technology and broadband access, and other supports to assure universal access and equity for all students; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities for Common Core State Standards implementation in each state:

- Providing administrators and school leaders with comparable data that can be used across states, allowing for a more sophisticated level of continuity in how we educate our students; and
- Administering assessments that are rigorous and responsive to both student learning needs and teacher lesson planning; and
- Informing meaningful curricula for professional development that accurately addresses the unique strengths and weaknesses of our teachers; and

- Providing robust student-level indicators of college and career readiness to provide early, consistent, and actionable signals to students and schools for purposes of admission, college planning, remediation, and placement.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INCREASING DIVERSITY IN THE TEACHING PROFESSION

WHEREAS, research proves that teachers are the most important in-school influence in a student's education; and

WHEREAS, a portion of a teacher's overall effectiveness is couched in some measure of cultural competency; and

WHEREAS, a 2011 study revealed that while students of color made up over 40% of the U.S. student population, teachers of color only represented 17% of the teaching force, and the most recent data reveals that the gap between teachers and students of color has continued to grow—the gap is now at 26 percentage points; and

WHEREAS, a significant diversity gap between teachers and students exists in almost every state in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, diversity gaps get even larger when looking at U.S. cities, with some examples showing stark realities:

- Chelsea Public Schools in Massachusetts: 76-percentage point gap between Hispanic teachers and students; and
- Randolph Public Schools in Massachusetts: 47-percentage point gap between African American teachers and students; and
- Santa Ana Unified School District in California: fewer than 3 percent of students are white, while 65 percent of teachers are white; and

WHEREAS, there is an even larger, overall gap of low-income and minority students disproportionately placed with ineffective teachers, as Latino and African-American students are three times as likely to get a teacher who ranks in the bottom quartile of effectiveness than their White counterparts; and

WHEREAS, not only do students of color do better on a variety of academic outcomes if they are taught by highly effective teachers of color, but teacher diversity is also critical to the long-term success of white students; and

WHEREAS, alternative routes to teaching have been shown to bring in more male and minority teachers than traditional routes; and

WHEREAS, teacher quality policies, including incentivizing more male and minority teaching candidates to enter the profession, involve removing barriers to the classroom and offering career advancement and differentiated compensation for highly effective teachers; and

WHEREAS, the number of new teacher hires in public schools is projected to increase 12 percent to 350,000 in 2020, representing a window of opportunity to strengthen diversity and quality; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the leadership of the Obama Administration in encouraging the development of new strategies to address teacher talent needs in the U.S.,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities for increasing the number of highly effective and diverse teachers in U.S. classrooms:

- Improving teacher preparation programs through targeted teacher recruitment of minority candidates; and
- Supporting equity policies that incentivize highly effective teachers to staff the most disadvantaged schools and classrooms; and
- Directing more resources to students of color in the K-12 system to spur more attention towards the teaching profession as a career; and
- Creating career ladders and leadership opportunities within the teaching ranks to encourage minority candidates to remain within the profession; and
- Focusing initial efforts in the highest-need districts and schools.

Projected Cost: Unknown

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, mayors throughout the U.S. have helped deploy public charter schools in their cities as options for parents, as proof points for providing high-quality education to children of all backgrounds, as hubs of entrepreneurial innovation, as centers of personalized learning, and as pathways to college and career; and

WHEREAS, nearly 6,500 charter schools are teaching 2.5 million children in almost every state in the nation—representing growth of 100% in the number of public charter schools since the 2007-2008 school year—most in America’s cities and urban metropolitan centers; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1 million student names on a waiting list for a public charter school this 2013-2014 school year, up from 920,007 last year; and

WHEREAS, studies have confirmed that public charter schools in some cities are better educating low-income African-American and Latino students than traditional district public schools; and

WHEREAS, for students who are low-income and students who are English Language Learners, charter schools have a larger and more positive effect than for similar students at traditional public schools; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, state lawmakers have been devoting increased attention to enacting legislation to better support the growth of high-quality public charter schools; and

WHEREAS, as part of these accountability efforts, a growing number of states have enacted laws that require public charter schools to close if they do not meet certain performance benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, out of approximately 6,000 operational charters in the 2012-2013 school year, roughly 200 charters schools closed before the start of the 2013-2014 school year; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has played a longstanding national leadership role in improving the quality of education, improving student academic excellence, and closing the achievement gap; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports meeting the demand for high-quality school options and enforcing high performance standards for renewal and replication; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, The U.S. Conference of Mayors encouraged mayors to support district-charter partnerships, including committing to a discussion with state legislators to advance legislation in areas of mutual interest,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities for improving charter quality, equity, and accountability:

- Supporting state policies that ensure the charter sectors in their respective states provide the best options to families across the country; and
- When appropriate, promoting strong public charter school leadership by encouraging responsive action to the failure of any school that does not meet academic performance standards; and
- Holding charter authorizers to the same level of accountability as state and district entities; and
- Continuing to pursue accountability frameworks that operate under transparent reporting processes for all schools; and
- Encouraging the use of longitudinal data to accurately measure the distinct needs of poor-performing schools that need to be addressed and using that data as the basis for renewal and closure decisions.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION FOR THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS “SUMMER JOBS FOR YOUTH”

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting the well-being and positive development of the nation’s youth; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s mayors have long advocated for strong summer jobs programs; and

WHEREAS, across the nation young people face an employment crisis; and the unemployment rate for young adults between the ages of 16 -24 is more than twice the national unemployment rate; and

WHEREAS, last June, the month when youth employment usually peaks, the unemployment rate among youth between the ages of 16-24 was 16.2 percent; and

WHEREAS, unemployment rates for African American youth is 31.9 percent and Latino youth is 17.6 percent; and unemployment rates for young adults in some major cities and rural areas is more than 40 percent; and

WHEREAS, the value of work experience for youth has been well documented, and national studies have demonstrated that youth employment has positive impacts on high school graduation rates, college-going rates, and future earnings; and

WHEREAS, summer jobs programs have the added benefit of reducing violence in cities and communities; and

WHEREAS, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, youth who miss out on an early work experience are more likely to endure future unemployment; and

WHEREAS, summer jobs programs provide teachable moments for youth receiving a paycheck to learn how to manage their finances; and

WHEREAS, many cities have invested local funds to match limited federal funding and conduct summer jobs programs; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2014 Congressional budget did not contain funding for summer jobs programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to restore its long term commitment for a strong summer jobs program, by providing funding for year round youth activities and by ensuring that youth summer jobs are part of any Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization, or by establishing separate ongoing funding for youth summer jobs programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on business leaders to:

- Invest in workforce education and career exploration counseling for high school students; and
- Encourage employees to participate in workforce development programs available in high schools; and
- Work with education and local leaders to develop appropriate curriculum that is responsive to workforce trends; and
- Collaborate with state education and workforce leaders to identify high-growth job trends.

Projected Cost: \$1 billion

INVESTING IN SUMMER YOUTH JOBS AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting the well-being and positive development of the nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, a key component of this commitment is to foster the creation of summer job opportunities for youth in cities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, through involvement in summer jobs programs, youth are able to gain the necessary skills and work experience needed to prepare them for future careers; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2012 U.S. Conference of Mayors/Zogby Poll, only 30% of businesses hired a youth under the age of 23 for the summer, and 86.3% of businesses were never asked; and

WHEREAS, according to the same study, an overwhelming 73.7% of businesses that hired youth deemed their skills as either excellent or good, and 70.4% thought that the experience was fulfilling and productive; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the critical role that businesses play in overall job creation, and encourages cities to reach out to members of the business community and ask them to create summer job opportunities for youth; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the members of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors who have made it their responsibility to help create summer jobs and place youth in their own organizations; and

WHEREAS, in order to identify cities with outstanding summer youth employment programs, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has launched its second annual 2014 National Summer Jobs Challenge, inviting cities to describe their youth employment initiatives in an application process, and recognizing three winners at the 2015 U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, through the DollarWise Campaign, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has emphasized the importance of financial literacy training to be offered within summer jobs programs so that youth have the opportunity to learn how to responsibly use the money that they earn; and

WHEREAS, during summer of 2014, the DollarWise Campaign will invite youth involved in summer jobs to participate in the DollarWise Summer Youth Jobs

Contest where youth across the United States will have the opportunity to win an assortment of prizes for completing a set of online financial education modules related to checking accounts, savings accounts, budgeting, credit cards, and financial planning; and

WHEREAS, The DollarWise Campaign has maintained the goal of integrating a financial education component into every summer youth jobs program by 2015,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on all mayors to establish partnerships with members of the private and nonprofit sectors and ask them to create summer job opportunities for youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on cities with summer jobs programs to participate in the 2014 National Summer Jobs Challenge as well as the 2014 DollarWise Summer Youth Jobs Contest, and to also integrate a financial education component into their programs.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PRESIDENT OBAMA’S COLLEGE SCORECARD

WHEREAS, the average earnings of a college graduate are almost twice as high as that of workers with only a high school diploma, but only just over half of all high school graduates in the poorest quarter of families attend college; and

WHEREAS, higher education is the surest means of entering into the middle class; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference Mayors has endorsed President Obama’s higher education plan and worked with the Secretary of Education on its development and implementation; and

WHEREAS, an accessible college ratings system will help first generation college students, and the children of college graduates find information about post-secondary education that fits their career aspirations while delivering the best quality, cost, and value; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called on his administration to publish better information on how colleges are performing through innovative technologies; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education has responded by creating a College Scorecard rating system through the College Affordability and Transparency Center to make it easier for students to learn about a college’s affordability and value, in order to make informed decisions about which college to attend; and

WHEREAS, the White House, U.S. Departments of Education, Treasury, and the General Services Administration have hosted an Education ‘Datapalooza’ to highlight the role that private-sector apps, tools, and services can play in helping students evaluate, select, and get into college; and

WHEREAS, before the 2015 school year, the Department of Education will develop, and then publish to the College Scorecard, a new ratings system to help students compare the value offered by colleges and encourage colleges to improve,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the innovative College Scorecard System created by the Department of Education’s College Affordability and Transparency Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages the White House, U.S. Departments of Education, Treasury, and the General Services Administration to further explore the role that private-sector apps, tools, and services can play in helping students evaluate, select and get into college, in local and regional partnerships with mayors.

Project Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL CITIES OF LEARNING

WHEREAS, the inaugural City of Learning kicked off in 2013 to great fanfare with a highly successful summer program in Chicago, led by Mayor Rahm Emanuel and adopted by the City. During the program, thousands earned digital badges to help connect in-and out-of-school learning; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, more than 200,000 young people participated in Chicago Summer of Learning activities – from creating apps to designing jewelry and fashion, from exploring epidemiology to becoming a filmmaker. An estimated 30,000 of those youth and young adults developed valuable skills and received more than 100,000 digital badges to help further their academic and professional ambitions, making the Windy City a thriving campus of opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Chicago City of Learning now continues year-round, allowing youth and young adults to gain digital badges for mastering skills ranging from coding and robotics to poetry and the arts; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Learning incorporate Connected Learning, a new approach designed to make learning more powerful and more relevant to the demands and opportunities of the digital age; and

WHEREAS, digital badges capture all of the learning skills and help to connect in-and out-of-school learning to help improve and strengthen the pipeline between school and work for youth while also helping local employers hire from the community. Concurrently, digital badges can help make visible the skills, competencies, and knowledge that are important to employers that youth are acquiring through out-of-school learning, driving a deeper level of learning; and

WHEREAS, following the great success of the inaugural City of Learning, youth and young adults in Los Angeles, Dallas, Pittsburgh, Columbus, and Washington, D.C., as well as in Chicago, will have the opportunity to connect with community-based organizations, cultural institutions, businesses, philanthropic institutions, and city agencies to help them pursue their passion, interests, and jobs. As a result, the Cities of Learning will keep thousands connected and plugged in to their community year-round; and

WHEREAS, the Cities of Learning continues to grow, including in Los Angeles, where Mayor Eric Garcetti partnered with the Los Angeles Unified School District and others to kick off an unprecedented partnership between the City and school district to reach more than 50,000 students for what will be the largest Connected Learning movement in the country; and

WHEREAS, as the Connected Learning movement continues to gain in prominence in cities and school districts across the country, Cities of Learning will become an inimitable part of the educational process,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors does hereby support the National Cities of Learning.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF RAISING THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are committed to providing economic growth and opportunity within their cities; and

WHEREAS, the growing inequality gap has left middle and working class families with less income to consume, leading to a decrease in demand and the shackling of the nation's economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the federal minimum wage, currently at \$7.25 an hour, would be over \$10.50 if it had kept up with inflation since 1968; and

WHEREAS, the federal minimum wage would be over \$18 if it had kept up with worker productivity; and

WHEREAS, a full-time worker making the federal minimum wage and raising two children earns just \$15,080 a year, \$4,000 below the poverty line for a family of three; and

WHEREAS, a proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 would raise earnings for nearly 28 million workers by \$35 billion; and

WHEREAS, increasing the spending ability of minimum wage workers through raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 would increase the demand for goods and services and generate \$22 billion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, more than 600 economists, including seven Nobel laureates, signed a letter supporting an increase in the minimum wage, saying, "the weight of evidence now show[s] that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market"; and

WHEREAS, business owners realize the value of raising the minimum wage, with 82 percent of small business owners already paying their employees more than the minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, the federal government would save \$46 billion over ten years in spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps, if the federal minimum wage were raised to \$10.10; and

WHEREAS, women, who are nearly two-thirds of all workers paid the minimum wage or less, would benefit tremendously from an increase in the minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long promoted an agenda that would build an economy that works for everyone,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors hereby respectfully urges Congress to:

- Raise the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors is prepared to work with the Administration and Congress to further address the economic challenges facing our nation's cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports state and local government efforts to set their own minimum wages above the federal minimum wage to help its lowest paid workers keep pace with the rising cost of living.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING CAREER PATHWAYS SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, ensuring robust economic growth, a thriving middle class, and broadly shared prosperity will require a significant expansion of the skills and knowledge of American workers over the next few decades; and

WHEREAS, even as millions more Americans seek the postsecondary education and training necessary to secure good jobs that pay family-sustaining wages, employers continue to report difficulty finding the skilled workers they need; and

WHEREAS, in a time of intense global economic competition, and increasing income inequality at home, the United States must find innovative and cost-effective ways to help youths and adults gain the educational and industry-recognized credentials they need to participate fully in our economy and our society; and

WHEREAS, education, workforce, and human service agencies are critical partners in the development, implementation, and funding of systems that build the knowledge and skills our economy needs to thrive; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has supported linked learning and the implementation of effective career pathways systems as promising strategies for meeting the skills challenge by offering distinct but complementary workforce, education, and support services that are aligned with the needs of business and industry; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Departments of Labor and Education jointly deployed \$100 million in Youth CareerConnect grants to cities and rural areas throughout the country this year, and are now partnering together with the Department of Health & Human Services on comprehensive policy and grant coordination between the three agencies to systematically support effective career pathways systems,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorse the following essential components of an effective city career pathways system:

- Alignment of systems: secondary, postsecondary and workforce development; And
- Rigorous, sequential, connected, and efficient coursework that connects basic education and skills training and integrates education and training; and
- Multiple entry and exit points; and

- An emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) pathways; and
- Recruitment and retention of girls, minority groups in order to expand the talent pool for high demand STEM occupations; and
- Comprehensive support services, such as career counseling, childcare, and transportation; and
- Financial supports or flexibility to accommodate the demands of the labor market in order to allow individuals to meet their ongoing financial needs and obligations; and
- Active engagement of business in targeted industry sectors that aligns with the skill needs of industries important to the local, regional, and/or State economies; and
- Appropriate curriculum and instructional strategies that make work a central context for learning and work readiness skills; and
- Credit for prior learning and the adoption of other strategies that accelerate the educational and career advancement of the participant; and
- Organized services to meet the particular needs of adults, including accommodating work schedules with flexible and non-semester-based scheduling, alternative class times and locations, and the innovative use of technology; and
- A focus on secondary and postsecondary industry-recognized credentials, sector-specific employment, and advancement over time in education and employment within that sector; and
- A collaborative partnership among workforce, education, human service agencies, business and other community stakeholders to manage the system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the innovative Youth CareerConnect initiative of the Departments of Labor and Education, and pledges to collaborate with the federal agencies to create and strengthen effective career pathways systems in America's cities.

Project Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION TO EXPAND APPRENTICESHIPS FOR GOOD MIDDLE CLASS JOBS

WHEREAS, ensuring robust economic growth, a thriving middle class, and broadly shared prosperity will require a significant expansion of the skills and knowledge of American workers over the next few decades; and

WHEREAS, even as millions more Americans seek the postsecondary education and training necessary to secure good jobs that pay family-sustaining wages, while employers continue to report difficulty finding the skilled workers they need; and

WHEREAS, in a time of intense global economic competition, and increasing income inequality at home, the United States must find innovative and cost-effective ways to help youths and adults gain the educational and industry-recognized credentials they need to participate fully in our economy and our society; and

WHEREAS, education, workforce, and human service agencies are critical partners in the development, implementation, and funding of programs that build the knowledge and skills our economy needs to thrive; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor is making \$100 million in existing H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Award funds available for the American Apprenticeship Grants competition to reward partnerships that help more workers participate in apprenticeships; and

WHEREAS, 87 percent of apprentices are employed after completing their programs and the average starting wage for apprenticeship graduates is over \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, this competition will help more Americans access this proven path to employment and the middle class,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports fostering partnerships between employers, labor organizations, training providers, community colleges, local and state governments, the workforce system, non-profits and faith-based organizations in order to:

- Launch apprenticeship models in new, high-growth fields; and
- Align apprenticeships to pathways for further learning and career advancement; and
- Scale apprenticeship models that work; and be it further; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the efforts by the Departments of Labor, Education and Veterans Affairs to reform their programs to enable the use of education benefits for apprenticeships in order to;

- Streamline GI Bill benefits for apprentices; and
- Make college credit available to apprentices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors pledges to collaborate with the Departments of Labor, Education and Veterans Affairs in order to expand opportunities in existing apprenticeship programs and create new apprenticeship programs in American cities.

Project Cost: Unknown

CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP

WHEREAS, over the past year, the private sector has added 2.2 million jobs, and the unemployment rate has fallen 1.2 percentage points – with the short-term unemployment rate falling to its pre-recession average; and

WHEREAS, according to the White House Council of Economic Advisors, as of December 2013, there were still 3.9 million long-term unemployed Americans, those without jobs for 27 or more weeks, about 2.6 million of whom had been looking for work for 52 weeks or more; and

WHEREAS, despite these unemployed workers, employers across the nation are having difficulty obtaining employees with the skills necessary to work in high-demand fields such as Information Technology, Health, and Advanced Manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has asked Vice President Biden to lead an initiative to help individuals get trained with skills that businesses need now to place them in good, middle class jobs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the efforts of the White House and the Labor Department to focus on closing the skills gap in the American labor market, particularly for the long-term unemployed and economically disadvantaged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to support the Administration’s proposals regarding smart job training initiatives such as partnerships between employers with local community colleges, American Apprenticeships, Advanced Manufacturing partnerships, and additional funding through the Workforce Investment Act.

Projected Cost: Unknown.

THE JOINING FORCES INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has ordered a mandatory, accelerated drawdown of active duty forces, using a full menu of involuntary separation programs to reduce personnel and meet budgetary goals by the end of Fiscal Year 2015, as the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan come to an end; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden have launched the Joining Forces Initiative to engage all sectors of society to give service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned; and

WHEREAS, the Joining Forces Initiative seeks to expand employment and career development opportunities for veterans and military spouses, to promote expanded education opportunities, and to call attention to critical wellness issues facing veterans and their families while expanding access to wellness programs and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration and the U.S. Conference of Mayors share a joint belief that no veteran should have to fight for a job at after they fight for our nation overseas; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has solicited on-going commitments from a number of American companies that jointly resolve to hire or train veterans or military spouses; and

WHEREAS, mayors are uniquely positioned to highlight the workforce potential of veterans and military spouses, and to encourage local employers to reduce barriers to jobs such as licensing or credentialing; and

WHEREAS, mayors have the ability to convene community organizations and resources in order to provide support services that address the needs of veterans and military families,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the efforts of First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to draw attention to the needs of veterans and military families under the Joining Forces Initiative, especially as the Department of Defense has implemented an accelerated drawdown strategy to attain drastic reductions in manpower in the coming months; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages all mayors to ensure that their communities are well-equipped to help returning veterans successfully transition into the civilian workforce through the provision of workforce development and training programs and to also ensure that military spouses and families have access to educational opportunities and critical support services.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE MANUFACTURING COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the manufacturing sector has a major, positive impact on the American economy, with contributions in 2012 that included 12 million direct manufacturing jobs, 17.4 million indirect jobs, \$2.03 trillion in economic output (12.5% of GDP), significantly higher earning rates for workers than other sectors, two-thirds of all private sector R&D, and the highest multiplier of any sector of the economy at \$1.32 added for every dollar spent on manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, the manufacturing sector is gaining strength in many cities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the successful expansion of manufacturing requires strong local communities that are prepared to support and grow this sector, through infrastructure improvements, site development, job training and workforce development, economic development efforts, and other approaches; and

WHEREAS, local government efforts to support manufacturing growth can be enhanced by federal government programs and resources for infrastructure, site improvement, economic development, education, workforce training and development, capital access, and export promotion; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration is seeking to enhance federal support for manufacturing communities through programs including the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, and resources for manufacturing from agencies including the Economic Development Administration, the Department of Labor, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense, the National Science Foundation, the National Institute for Standards & Testing, and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Congress is considering bipartisan legislation to support manufacturing communities, including the “Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act” (S.1468 / H.R. 2996); and

WHEREAS, local government leaders support the codification of the current “Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership” (IMCP) program at the Economic Development Administration in order to ensure that IMCP can continue to benefit cities; and

WHEREAS, the growth of local manufacturing is also supported by the “Maker Movement”, which seeks to bring technology inventors and entrepreneurs together with advanced technology tools and the support of public and private sector partners; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors continues to support the leadership of mayors in promoting strong manufacturing communities, including through USCM's Advanced Manufacturing Task Force,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors pledges its support for federal programs that provide resources and other assistance to manufacturing communities, and calls for annual congressional appropriations to sustain these programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the passage of the "Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act" (S.1468 / H.R. 2996); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports an amendment to the Revitalize American Manufacturing and Innovation Act that codifies the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership program at the Economic Development Administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the Maker Movement, and encourages its member mayors to lead efforts in their cities to support Maker-related activities that drive innovation, encourage entrepreneurship and create a strong foundation for the next wave of advanced manufacturing.

Projected Cost: Unknown

A STRONG MANUFACTURING SECTOR

WHEREAS, manufacturing remains a vital and growing sector of the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, over the last three years, metropolitan area manufacturing employment has expanded by an average annual rate of 1.7%; and

WHEREAS, many communities across the country continue to slowly recover from the economic impact of the great recession, particularly in areas where manufacturing was once dominant; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Obama Administration has increasingly focused on revitalizing the role of manufacturing in the U.S. economy through grants and initiatives administered by the Commerce Department and the Economic Development Administration; and

WHEREAS, former Youngstown, OH Mayor Jay Williams has been nominated by President Obama as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, overseeing the Economic Development Administration,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the Administration's renewed focus of manufacturing through initiatives such as the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership, the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, and the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to approve additional investments in job training initiatives to close the skills gap, encourage apprenticeships and partnerships with community colleges, authorize tax credits to promote manufacturing in communities, and encourage more foreign direct investment in the U.S. through the SelectUSA initiative.

Projected Cost: Unknown

MY BROTHER'S KEEPER INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, there are many boys and young men of color who do not realize their full potential as they contend with persistent gaps in employment, educational outcomes, and career skills throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, data demonstrates that boys and young men of color are less prepared to succeed in school and the labor-force and are more likely than their peers to become victims of murder or violent crime; and

WHEREAS, statistics show disproportionately negative effects for our boys and men of color across the board compared to peer groups throughout their elementary, secondary, and post-secondary education:

- Four out of five African American students 4th graders are not reading at proficient levels; and
- One in three African American students do not graduate and one in four Hispanic students do not graduate nationwide; and
- African-American students drop out at 3 times the rate of their white counterparts and Hispanic students drop out at 2.5 times the rate of their white counterparts; and
- Only one in six African-American students and only one in four Hispanic students were ready for college in 2013; and
- In 2011, higher income African American and Hispanic students were as likely to be at the below basic achievement level in 4th grade math as low-income white students; and
- By the time they hit fourth grade, 86 percent of African American boys and 82 percent of Hispanic and Native American boys are reading below proficiency levels — compared to 58 percent of white fourth graders reading below proficiency levels; and

WHEREAS, without policies and extra supports to aid our African-American and Hispanic students, they may never catch up with their peers; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionate population of African-American and Hispanic young men become involved in the criminal justice system and face difficulty transitioning back into society upon reentry, undermining family and community stability; and

WHEREAS, our cities bear vast social and economic costs from these troubling outcomes in communities across the country, and President Obama recognizes the urgent need to tackle this complex problem; and

WHEREAS, President Obama issued a directive in February 2014 to launch the My Brother's Keeper Initiative, a coordinated interagency effort that seeks to address those disparities and opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color, to measurably improve their expected life and educational outcomes, and to unlock their full potential by making use of both public and private resources; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has partnered with philanthropic organizations, the private sector, and state and local officials including Mayors to build ladders of opportunity for these disadvantaged youth; and

WHEREAS, Mayors can use the Presidential Memorandum, signed by President Obama to establish the My Brother's Keeper Task Force, in order to better determine which public and private efforts are working and how the federal government can support those efforts; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is prioritizing the issue and providing federal support for local efforts to build community trust through grant programs administered by federal agencies including the Department of Justice and the Department of Education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Administration and its work with Mayors, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector to advance achievement and life outcomes for boys and young men of color; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors looks forward to continued engagement with the My Brother's Keeper Task Force to better inform their recommendations and federal efforts to bolster opportunity for boys and young men of color in cities nationwide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayors will provide critical support for learning opportunities aligned to focused efforts for boys and men of color, including, as appropriate in individual cities, the coordination of afterschool and out-of-school municipal and civic programs to incorporate culturally relevant curricula and the support of intermediary organizations to assist schools and districts in providing extra supports for boys and men of color.

Projected Cost: Unknown

THE PROMISE ZONE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, President Obama launched the Promise Zone Initiative to help communities with high concentrations of poverty to bolster local revitalization efforts in order to ensure that hard work leads to a decent living for every American in every community; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's intensive partnerships with local stakeholders will better enable communities to implement economic and community development strategies with federal support and coordination at the local level; and

WHEREAS, local leadership in Promise Zone communities will focus on creating jobs, increasing economic activity, improving educational opportunities, increasing access to quality, affordable housing and reducing violent crime; and

WHEREAS, Promise Zone communities will receive priority consideration and preferred access to federal programs and resources within the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Agriculture to supplement local efforts as they work toward their goals; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed tax cuts on hiring and investment in areas designated as Promise Zones to attract businesses and create jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Administration selected five communities to receive the designation in the first round last year, including the City of San Antonio, TX; the City of Los Angeles, CA; the City of Philadelphia, PA; Southeastern Kentucky; and the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the Administration plans to designate fifteen more communities over the next three years, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced that the Administration will broaden its eligibility criteria for selecting those new communities in these next rounds of designation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the Administration for Promise Zone Initiative and supports its plan to designate an additional fifteen communities using broadened criteria in the next three rounds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to take action and enact President Obama's Promise Zone tax incentive proposal.

Projected Cost: Unknown

NATIONAL SERVICE

WHEREAS, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

WHEREAS, the nation's Mayors are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet city needs; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service, which administers AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, the Social Innovation Fund, and the Volunteer Generation Fund, shares a priority with Mayors nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and

WHEREAS, national service participants address the most pressing challenges facing our cities, from educating students for the jobs of the 21st century and supporting veterans and military families to providing health services and helping communities recover from natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, national service expands economic opportunity by creating more sustainable, resilient communities and providing education, career skills, and leadership abilities for those who serve; and

WHEREAS, national service participants serve in nearly 60,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

WHEREAS, national service participants increase the impact of the organizations they serve with, both through their direct service and by recruiting and managing millions of additional volunteers; and

WHEREAS, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, national service participants demonstrate commitment, dedication, and patriotism by making an intensive commitment to service-- a commitment that remains with them in their future endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Corporation for National and Community Service leads President Obama's Task Force on Expanding National Service through which it is partnering with the public and private sectors to solve problems and create more national service opportunities; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,750 Mayors from all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Guam, and Puerto Rico, representing 110 million citizens or one-third of all Americans, participated in the second annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, more than 830,000 individuals have served a combined one billion hours in AmeriCorps; and

WHEREAS, annually more than 300,000 Senior Corps volunteers serve children, the elderly, and veterans,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities:

- Support National Service as a critical and effective solution to community challenges facing Mayors across the country; and
- Commit to working with organizations at the local level that partner with the Corporation for National and Community Service to further their impact in cities across the nation; and
- Encourage Mayors to partner with the Corporation for National and Community Service to create additional sources of funding for national service through other local government agencies; and
- Encourage Mayors to participate in or host an event celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the AmeriCorps program on September 12, 2014; and
- Place a priority on hiring AmeriCorps Alumni who have gained valuable skills, including project management, team building, and budgeting; and
- Serve as an official sponsor for the annual Mayors Day of Recognition for National Service along with the Corporation for National and Community Service, the National League of Cities, and Cities of Service.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INVESTING IN OUR NATION'S
WATER INFRASTRUCTURE IN ORDER TO CREATE JOBS,
GROW LOCAL ECONOMIES, AND PROMOTE CLIMATE
RESILIENCE**

WHEREAS, water is the lifeline of American prosperity. It is the backbone of our economy and is essential to maintaining public health; and

WHEREAS, one-fifth of the U.S. economy—from agriculture, to mining, manufacturing, and electricity—would grind to halt without a reliable and clean supply of water; and

WHEREAS, the greatest public health achievement of the 20th century was the construction of reliable water and wastewater systems; and

WHEREAS, the water and wastewater systems that serve the United States are over 100 years old. The continued vitality and resiliency of American cities relies on this infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, after working around the clock for a century, water and wastewater systems are crumbling around us, threatening public health, the environment, and local economies; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Civil Engineers assigned U.S. water and wastewater systems a grade of D in 2013 and estimated 45% of all pipes in 2010 were in poor shape; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors estimates that an investment of \$4.8 trillion in capital outlays is needed over the next 20 years in order to bring water and wastewater systems to a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, emergency repairs to fix failed infrastructure are significantly more expensive than planned improvements that would prevent such failures, thereby increasing the urgency to find requisite funding; and

WHEREAS, changing weather patterns are impacting cities across the nation, further placing our water infrastructure in jeopardy and threatening the overall environmental and economic security in America. Unmitigated climate impacts could result in costs between 5 and 20 percent of global GDP; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Emergency Management Agency declared 62 major disasters in 2013, almost all of which had significant implications for water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, coastal cities are especially vulnerable to rising sea levels as a result of climate change. For example, sea levels in the San Francisco Bay are predicted to rise about 16 inches by 2050; and

WHEREAS, investing in America’s water and wastewater systems is an important strategy to help communities be more resilient to a changing climate while safeguarding valuable water resources; and

WHEREAS, the declining state of water and wastewater infrastructure in the U.S. is a national issue that deserves attention from the federal government. Federal funding and support has declined, leaving local governments to fund 98% of all water and wastewater infrastructure improvements; and

WHEREAS, investments in water infrastructure create jobs and stimulates economic activity. A \$1 billion investment in water infrastructure creates over 26,000 jobs nationwide. The Department of Commerce estimates that each job created in the water and wastewater industry at the local level creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy and each public dollar spent in the water industry yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries; and

WHEREAS, mayors and public utilities are seizing the opportunity to address the investment gap, create jobs, and build resilient communities. Around the country, cities are investing billions of dollars in their local water and wastewater systems and as a result they are putting people to work and growing their local economies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on the United States Congress and the White House to recognize water infrastructure as a critical national asset in need of immediate attention and prioritize investments needed to bring the nation’s water systems up to a state of good repair; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to significantly increase the amount of and access to grants and low-cost capital, including but not limited to increased investments in State Revolving Funds, pilot programs such as the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Authority, Infrastructure Banks, and eligibility for public-private partnerships, and others, to accelerate investment in water infrastructure projects across the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support workforce development programs in the water sector that will help cities prepare for a rapidly retiring workforce and help prepare the next generation of workers for quality employment opportunities in the water sector.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORT THE DONATION OF USED GOODS TO LEGITIMATE LOCAL NONPROFITS AS A MEANS OF CONTRIBUTING TO LOCAL ECONOMIES, DIVERTING ITEMS FROM LANDFILLS, THEREBY HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND PROVIDING LOCAL SOCIAL SERVICES THAT STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, for many years, Goodwill® and other like industries have been entrepreneurial leaders, environmental pioneers and social innovators of the “reduce, reuse, repurpose” practice; and

WHEREAS, these industries divert more than three billion pounds annually from landfills by recovering the value in people’s unwanted goods and diverting usable goods, thereby having a positive economic impact on local communities; and

WHEREAS, these industries’ social enterprise models demonstrate social and environmental leadership, creating thousands of jobs and contributing to the economic health of communities while preserving resources and the environment, and reducing tax paying citizens’ reliance on public assistance; and

WHEREAS, through socially innovative partnerships such as environmentally responsible corporations, county and city governments, as well as other organizations, they divert unwanted or used computers and computer equipment from landfills, and provides community consumer education on environmentally responsible computer disposal; and

WHEREAS, these programs create job training and employment opportunities for people in need of work — from collecting and sorting jobs to more skilled positions—improving and strengthening neighborhoods and communities; and

WHEREAS, these industries’ donation-resale models extend the life of usable clothing and other goods, and channels more than 83 cents of every dollar to help people in local communities move toward family-sustaining careers by providing important social services, including child care, financial counseling, mentoring and other services, that benefit more than nine million people each year—strengthening families and local communities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors commends the corporate social responsibility platform and public awareness movement that encourages consumers, in local municipalities, to support the donation of used goods as a means of contributing to local economies, local communities and diverting items from landfills, thereby helping the environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors commends nonprofit social enterprises, which provide community-based job training; offer locally focused career services, support programs for people who face challenges to finding employment and other local social services that strengthen families and communities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

REDUCING THE NATIONAL BURDEN OF STUDENT LOANS

WHEREAS, post-secondary education is the surest path to personal success, but the skyrocketing cost of financing a technical and college degree is reaching a point where it negates the gains higher academic achievement can provide; and

WHEREAS, over the past five years, the level of student debt has almost doubled from approximately \$600 billion in 2008 to over \$1.1 trillion, and student debt now exceeds all other forms of other consumer debt, except home mortgages; and

WHEREAS over 65% of college students now graduate with education debt, and the average debt of a graduating senior now tops \$26,600; and

WHEREAS, this rising burden of student debt is creating severe personal challenges for our young adults and their families, forcing them to forgo important purchases such as buying a home, delay investing for their retirement, and jeopardizing the future of their own children; and

WHEREAS, hobbling our young adults with education debt will slow our economy as this generation will have less ability to invest, purchase and drive demand,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports President Obama's order to allow federal direct student loan borrowers to cap their student loan payments at 10 percent of their income

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President and the Congress to take further immediate steps to significantly reduce the overall burden of the student loan debt through reduced interest programs, and reduction in principle for both paid and volunteered public and community service on the part of the student.

Project Cost: Unknown

METRO ECONOMIES POLICY COMMITTEE

ENSURING VETERANS' ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, having put their lives on the line to secure our basic freedoms, our veterans deserve our recognition and our deepest gratitude for their selfless service to the nation; and

WHEREAS, we as a nation bear the responsibility to honor our veterans, ensuring that they receive the benefits to which they are entitled, including timely, quality medical care in our communities; and

WHEREAS, it was widely reported in April that veterans seeking care at the Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital in Phoenix, AZ may have experienced excessive delays in receiving care, that as many as 40 veterans may have died from lack of treatment due to the delays; and that officials at the facility misreported patient wait times in the Electronic Waiting List system employed by all VA medical facilities in order to hide the actual longer wait times; and

WHEREAS, there had been similar reports of delayed care and other irregularities at other VA medical facilities across the country over the years, including General Accountability Office findings that excessive waiting times and manipulation of the system to hide them in "secret lists" had occurred and continued to occur; and

WHEREAS, in response to these allegations, the VA inspector general initiated an investigation at the Phoenix VA hospital as well as an audit of VA clinics nationwide, and Congress held (and continues to hold) oversight hearings on the allegations; and

WHEREAS, the VA inspector general reported in May that 1,700 veterans seeking treatment at the Phoenix VA hospital were "at risk of being lost or forgotten," and that at least 35 veterans died while awaiting treatment in Phoenix, although it could not be confirmed that all the deaths were attributable to long wait times for appointments (and subsequent investigation has reduced this number by about half, with most having contacted the VA for "end of life care"); and

WHEREAS, in May the VA launched an effort to identify veterans throughout the system who were experiencing waits that exceeded expectations for timeliness and to schedule them for care in VA clinics or to arrange for their care in the community; among other VA responses were a hiring freeze and suspension of performance awards for senior executives; and

WHEREAS, in June the VA reported that, based on an audit of more than 700 VA medical centers and outpatient clinics, the VA's 14-day appointment wait time target was unattainable given current service capacity, and 13 percent of VA scheduling staff had been instructed by supervisors or others to alter dates of appointments requested by veterans; the VA also reported that more than 57,000 new applicants for care have had to wait at least three months for initial appointments and an additional 64,000 newly-enrolled veterans who requested appointments never got them; and

WHEREAS, both the House and Senate have acted quickly to address the VA healthcare problems that have surfaced by passing similar bipartisan legislation – unanimously in the House, nearly unanimously in the Senate – that will, among other things, enable the VA to hire additional medical personnel and add a large number of new medical facilities, allow veterans to obtain private health care outside the VA system when necessary, and ease restrictions on the VA's ability to dismiss incompetent personnel; and

WHEREAS, because the VA health care system is the largest in the U.S., with 1,700 hospitals, clinics, and other facilities serving 8.5 million patients, and with a presence in cities of all sizes across the nation, its ability to provide quality medical and other services needed by all who qualify for them is a major concern of mayors who are ultimately responsible for the health and safety of all city residents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the quick action taken by the Administration and Congress to identify the extent of the VA medical scheduling and service problems that have been identified and to pursue legislation that will both require and enable the VA to address these problems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to fully commit the resources that will be needed to implement all of the provisions of the VA health system legislation being finalized in Congress, and to equip the VA to ensure, in the years ahead, that all veterans receive the health care to which they are entitled, as needed and when needed.

Projected Cost: Unknown

DEFENDING THE TAX EXEMPTION ON MUNICIPAL BONDS

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is dedicated to ensuring local control and decision making through access to affordable capital; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds finance infrastructure that touches the daily lives of every American citizen – the roads we drive on, schools and education for our children, affordable housing, water systems that supply safe drinking water, wastewater systems that keep our waterways clean, courthouses, hospitals and clinics to treat the sick, airports and ports that help move products domestically and overseas, and utility plants that power homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, three-quarters of all infrastructure investments made in the United States are financed by state and local governments and their agencies through tax-exempt municipal bonds; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds have, for 100 years, been the way that state and local governments can affordably access capital markets to meet the needs of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, interest on municipal bonds is exempt from Federal taxation under a principle of reciprocal immunity under which the Federal Government is exempt from State and local taxations and local governments are exempt from Federal taxation; and

WHEREAS, savings from affordable financing through tax-exempt bonds allows for greater infrastructure investments and savings passed directly to taxpayers and ratepayers in the form of reduced taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, keeping infrastructure costs low is critical to job creation and to the infrastructure investments that are the backbone of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Civil Engineers has given a grade of D+ for the condition and performance of the nation's infrastructure, and estimates an investment of \$3.6 trillion will be needed by 2020; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration have proposed capping, limiting, eliminating or replacing tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, several studies have concluded convincingly that proposals to limit, eliminate or replace tax-exempt bonds would result in significantly higher borrowing costs for state and local government; and

WHEREAS, increased borrowing costs would translate to increased fees and increased taxation at the local level, or in the failure to meet core infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, limiting, eliminating or replacing tax-exempt bonds could shut many small issuers out of the bond market entirely; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the financing tool that exists by and for local governments without federal interference; and

WHEREAS, federal mandates significantly increase state and local government infrastructure costs, with mandates related to the Clean Water Act placing an especially large burden on city governments; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments cannot and should not rely exclusively upon federal tax credits, federal reimbursement payments, federal grants and federal loans to finance infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade funding for core federal government infrastructure grant programs has been stagnant at best and in many cases has declined precipitously; and

WHEREAS, in an era of increasing federal mandates and federal budget austerity, capping, limiting or eliminating tax-exempt bonds would essentially signal a divestment in infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, tax credit bonds and direct subsidy bonds are a good complement to traditional tax-exempt municipal bonds but would be a poor substitute due to reliance on a federal subsidy and higher costs for smaller issuers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes any proposal to cap, limit, eliminate or replace tax-exempt bonds.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF EXEMPTING PRIVATE ACTIVITY BONDS FROM THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX

WHEREAS, airports play a vital role in the economy of the United States, providing for the efficient movement of people and goods to domestic and international destinations; and

WHEREAS, airports are responsible for 10.5 million jobs, create an annual payroll of \$365 billion and produce an annual output of \$1.2 trillion; and

WHEREAS, in order to ensure that the critical flow of commerce is not encumbered by delays or outdated facilities, airports use bonds to finance airside enhancements and landside capacity projects; and

WHEREAS, 53% of all construction projects at airports are financed by bonds; and

WHEREAS, airport organizations estimate that approximately \$80 billion worth of capital improvements at airports are needed between 2011 and 2015; and

WHEREAS, from January 2009 to the end of 2010, under a two-year exemption from the Alternative Minimum Tax approved by Congress, the airport industry sold over an unprecedented \$12.7 billion in Private Activity Bonds (PABs) allowing construction to continue and jobs to be created at airports across the country; and

WHEREAS, the 2009-2010 AMT exemption for PABs saved airports (and the local communities that own them) over \$1.8 billion in financing costs, helping to create jobs, modernize a crucial component of our nation's infrastructure and lower costs to travelers; and

WHEREAS, the success of the 2009-2010 exemption for PABs resulted in the Future of Aviation Advisory Committee recommending to the Secretary of Transportation that the Secretary support additional AMT exemption for PABs; and

WHEREAS, since 2010 the AMT penalty on PABs has led to a decrease in demand for such bonds, making it increasingly difficult for airports to obtain the funds needed to pay for major infrastructure projects, at the same time that Congress and the Administration are imposing additional mandates on airports and not increasing the Passenger Facility Charge(PFC); and

WHEREAS, cutting taxes on PABs will create a broader, more stable market for airport financing, helping cities access private sector capital to expand and make needed renovations to their airports; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that exempting PABs from the AMT would directly cost the Treasury \$49 million per year but would result in tens of billions of dollars in annual economic activity from airport bond issues alone and would save airports (and the local communities that own them) hundreds of millions of dollars in financing costs; and

WHEREAS, the success of the 2009-2010 AMT exemption is clear, and the savings to the airport industry and others in the transportation sector, along with the reinvestment of those savings, will far exceed the cost to the federal government, while creating jobs through construction projects that improve our nation's infrastructure,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the permanent exemption of PABs from the AMT; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that until PABs are permanently exempt from the AMT, The United States Conference of Mayors also supports legislative measures to revive the 2009-2010 exemption on a temporary basis.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF RAISING THE FEDERAL MINIMUM WAGE

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors are committed to providing economic growth and opportunity within their cities; and

WHEREAS, the growing inequality gap has left middle and working class families with less income to consume, leading to a decrease in demand and the shackling of the nation's economic growth; and

WHEREAS, the federal minimum wage, currently at \$7.25 an hour, would be over \$10.50 if it had kept up with inflation since 1968; and

WHEREAS, the federal minimum wage would be over \$18 if it had kept up with worker productivity; and

WHEREAS, a full-time worker making the federal minimum wage and raising two children earns just \$15,080 a year, \$4,000 below the poverty line for a family of three; and

WHEREAS, a proposal to raise the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 would raise earnings for nearly 28 million workers by \$35 billion; and

WHEREAS, increasing the spending ability of minimum wage workers through raising the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 would increase the demand for goods and services and generate \$22 billion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, more than 600 economists, including seven Nobel laureates, signed a letter supporting an increase in the minimum wage, saying, "the weight of evidence now show[s] that increases in the minimum wage have had little or no negative effect on the employment of minimum-wage workers, even during times of weakness in the labor market"; and

WHEREAS, business owners realize the value of raising the minimum wage, with 82 percent of small business owners already paying their employees more than the minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, the federal government would save \$46 billion over ten years in spending on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps, if the federal minimum wage were raised to \$10.10; and

WHEREAS, women, who are nearly two-thirds of all workers paid the minimum wage or less, would benefit tremendously from an increase in the minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, that The United States Conference of Mayors has long promoted an agenda that would build an economy that works for everyone,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby respectfully urges Congress to:

- Raise the current federal minimum wage of \$7.25 per hour to \$10.10 per hour; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors is prepared to work with the Administration and Congress to further address the economic challenges facing our nation's cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports state and local government efforts to set their own minimum wages above the federal minimum wage to help its lowest paid workers keep pace with the rising cost of living.

Projected Cost: Unknown

AMERICA FAST FORWARD TRANSPORTATION BONDS

WHEREAS, every \$1 billion of investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure supports 36,000 jobs, generates nearly \$500 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues, and confers significant benefits to cities, including supporting economic growth and goods movement; and improving quality of life by helping to alleviate traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Trust Fund has insufficient resources to maintain the current level of federal spending on surface transportation, much less help fund major new investment initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal and budget realities confronting both the Administration and Congress require new innovative, targeted federal financing tools for transportation infrastructure that minimize impacts on the federal budget and maximize new job creation; and

WHEREAS, federal tax incentives can be a highly effective tool for encouraging private sector investment and, unlike direct federal spending, do not require growing the size of the federal government to administer them; and

WHEREAS, Congress has created over \$35 billion of qualified tax credit bonds with bipartisan support for a variety of sectors including: school construction, renewable energy, as well as forestry and energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds would support the creation of a 21st century national surface transportation system by creating a new category of qualified tax credit bonds to stimulate investment in highways, transit, bridges, freight, and intermodal facilities; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds would be a \$45 billion program over 10 years where the federal government pays all or most of the annual "interest" due on the bonds in the form of an annual non-refundable tax credit against the investor's federal tax liability; and

WHEREAS, 35 percent of the volume would be allocated to all states based on their proportion of the nation's population, and 65 percent would be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation among projects; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds should enable a project sponsor to undertake substantially greater investments within a defined revenue stream for debt service payments than other borrowing approaches, such as traditional tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Bonds would generate at least 500,000 private sector jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Bonds have received support from hundreds of mayors across the country and diverse groups including, the National League of Cities, US Chamber of Commerce, Building America's Future, National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Counties and others,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to create a new category of qualified tax credit bonds for transportation to stimulate infrastructure investment, which would include:

- \$45 billion program over 10 years; and
- Federal government pays all or most of the annual “interest” due on the bonds in the form of an annual non-refundable tax credit against the investor’s federal tax liability; and
- 35 percent of the volume would be allocated to all states based on their proportion of the nation’s population, and 65 percent would be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation among projects; and
- Eligible projects would include: highways, bridges and tunnels; transit and intercity passenger bus or rail; and intermodal freight transfer facilities and private freight facilities conferring a public benefit.

Projected Cost: Approximately \$7.5 billion over 10 years

A STRONG MANUFACTURING SECTOR

WHEREAS, manufacturing remains a vital and growing sector of the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, over the last three years, metropolitan area manufacturing employment has expanded by an average annual rate of 1.7%; and

WHEREAS, many communities across the country continue to slowly recover from the economic impact of the great recession, particularly in areas where manufacturing was once dominant; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, the Obama Administration has increasingly focused on revitalizing the role of manufacturing in the U.S. economy through grants and initiatives administered by the Commerce Department and the Economic Development Administration; and

WHEREAS, former Youngstown, OH Mayor Jay Williams has been nominated by President Obama as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, overseeing the Economic Development Administration,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the Administration's renewed focus of manufacturing through initiatives such as the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership, the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership, and the Strong Cities, Strong Communities Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to approve additional investments in job training initiatives to close the skills gap, encourage apprenticeships and partnerships with community colleges, authorize tax credits to promote manufacturing in communities, and encourage more foreign direct investment in the U.S. through the *SelectUSA* initiative.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF “POSTAL BANKING” TO HELP FUND A NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK

WHEREAS, the nation’s roads, bridges and other public structures (collectively, “infrastructure”) currently require \$2.75 trillion worth of repair and replacement by 2020, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers; and

WHEREAS, the cost of privately financing such infrastructure projects can add anywhere from 50% to more than 200% to such projects’ actual cost; and

WHEREAS, such financing costs place increasingly unacceptable burdens on municipal capital budgets and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.), Sen. Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) and other leaders have proposed creation of a National Infrastructure Bank to help fund public infrastructure projects at minimum financing cost; and

WHEREAS, such an Infrastructure Bank has not yet been enacted and implemented in part because sources of capitalization must be determined; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the United States Postal Service (USPS) proposed on January 27, 2014 that the USPS provide certain basic financial services, including savings accounts, primarily to low-wage workers and low-income retirees; and

WHEREAS, market forces have prompted banks to shutter more than 2,200 branches in 2012 alone, mostly in low-income neighborhoods (thereby creating “bank deserts”) while opening new branches in higher-income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, nearly 60% of America’s 30,000+ US Post Offices are located in “bank deserts,” i.e., zip codes having zero or only one bank branch; and

WHEREAS, the US Postal Service previously offered savings accounts to the American People for more than half a century, from 1911 to 1966; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of nearly every other developed nation enjoy the benefits of postal savings, but Americans are currently denied this “public option”; and

WHEREAS, postal savings deposits could significantly contribute to the formation of a capital base for a National Infrastructure Bank,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors does hereby support the aims and goals of the USPS OIG’s proposal to establish postal banking including, and specifically, postal savings accounts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly advises that postal savings deposits be applied to the formation of a capital base for a National Infrastructure Bank, with the aim of substantially reducing financing costs for municipal public works projects.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF “POSTAL BANKING” TO PROVIDE A LOW-COST NATIONWIDE ALTERNATIVE TO PAYDAY LENDERS

WHEREAS, 76% of American families live “paycheck to paycheck” with little or no savings for emergencies, as found by a BankRate.com study (2014); and

WHEREAS, nearly 25 million US workers earn less than \$10.10 an hour—itsself below poverty level for a single mother working 35 hours per week to support two children; and

WHEREAS, approximately 12 million people turn to small-dollar, short-term “payday loans” to make ends meet or cover emergency expenses, according to the Pew Charitable Trusts (2012); and

WHEREAS, payday borrowers typically have no cash cushion, no savings, poor or no credit, and nowhere else to turn but payday lenders and other such financial predators; and

WHEREAS, these predators charge exorbitant fees and usurious interest that result in effective annual percentage rates (APRs) averaging nearly 400%, also according to Pew; and

WHEREAS, such predatory fees and interest total, on average, \$520 on a typical \$375 loan; and

WHEREAS, such predators impose rules designed to entrap desperate borrowers, such as loan terms averaging 14-17 days, according to a Milken Institute report (2014); and

WHEREAS, the typical payday borrower is trapped for at least seven debt cycles on a given loan, staying indebted at high cost for more than half the year, according to Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) data (2013); and

WHEREAS, the **excessive** portion of predatory charges totals nearly \$2,190 per payday borrower per year, based on data cited by the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the United States Postal Service (USPS), an amount that is:

- equal to more than a full month’s hard-earned wages for the working poor, or
- nearly equal to a poverty-level family’s average annual food budget, or
- more than 93% of the average Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), designed by Congress to assist lower-income working families and not to be taken by financial predators; and

WHEREAS, **excessive** costs of “alternative financial services”—including, and especially, costs of payday loans and reloadable money cards on which unbanked and under-banked people commonly rely—totaled approximately \$80 billion in 2012 and was anticipated to rise by approximately 10.5% in 2013, according to data cited by the USPS Office of Inspector General; and

WHEREAS, returning said \$80 billion per year to the control of people from whom it is taken, would enable said individuals and families to better care for their own needs; and

WHEREAS, returning to said people essentially a full month of their own wages, would result in substantial positive impacts, such as:

- easing demand on services provided by local nonprofits and on tax-supported public services; and
- substantially reducing the need to rely on payday borrowing, and
- potentially generating **more than \$3 billion in additional sales tax revenues** with no rate increase; and

WHEREAS, payday lenders and other such financial predators are therefore **effectively ‘stealing’ tax revenue from municipalities**; and

WHEREAS, most municipalities and states have neither prohibited nor tightly constrained payday lending and related practices because such actions would hurt the working poor and low-income retirees by leaving them with virtually no access to small but urgent loans; and

WHEREAS, no effective nationwide solution is currently in place to consistently provide such loans and related financial services at low cost; and

WHEREAS, the conventional banking industry has experimented with affordable financial products and services geared to poverty-level customers, but has generally failed to provide effective nationwide solutions; and

WHEREAS, market forces have prompted banks to generally abandon the poor, for example by shuttering more than 2,200 branches in 2012 alone, mostly in low-income neighborhoods (thereby creating “bank deserts”) while opening new branches in higher-income neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the USPS Office of Inspector General proposed on January 27, 2014 that the USPS could sustainably provide low-income workers and retirees with payday loans **at less than one-tenth the cost** imposed by predators—e.g., a \$48 cost instead of \$520 on a \$375 loan—as well as low-cost reloadable money cards and

related low-cost financial services (collectively and generally referred to as “postal banking”); and

WHEREAS, nearly 60% of America’s 30,000+ US Post Offices are located in “bank deserts,” i.e., zip codes having zero or only one bank branch,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM) does hereby support the aims and goals of the USPS OIG’s proposal to establish postal banking, thereby enabling the **only** consistent nationwide alternative to payday predators; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that with said alternative in place, municipalities and states can then prohibit or severely restrict payday lending and other such predatory practices **without hurting low-income people**; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said action would reduce demands on both charitable and tax-supported services to the poor while **increasing municipal tax revenues with no rate increases**.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ENABLING ADOPTION OF PENSION BENEFIT ALTERNATIVES THAT REDUCE COSTS TO PUBLIC SECTOR EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS, many local and state governments are struggling to provide retirement security for employees over the long term while dealing with structural budget problems, tax base and investment losses from the economic downturn, and other fiscal pressures; and

WHEREAS, dealing with these pension costs contributes to cuts in public services, layoffs, and deferral of infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, many local governments have depleted fund balances, which impact bond ratings and can result in increased local property taxes; and

WHEREAS, in many cases, the rising costs of providing pension and retirement benefits have resulted in significant contribution increases borne by public sector employees; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments are proposing changes to pension plan offerings that can address budget problems while also reducing the cost of retirement benefits to public sector employees through their voluntary election of alternative plans; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Treasury Department guidelines, rulings, and review processes related to determining the tax treatment of retirement plan contributions impact whether local governments can effectively offer those choices to employees; and

WHEREAS, current federal standards are unclear and could expose employees to new federal taxes on their pension contributions under various new plan options; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury Department has been asked by several local and state governments to review such pension plan proposals and issue such guidance as provided prior to 2006,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls for federal administrative and regulatory action to clarify these tax issues and enable offerings of alternative pension plans that would ensure a more sustainable pension system, reduced costs to employees, and stronger local and state government financial conditions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors particularly calls upon the U.S. Department of Treasury to expeditiously promulgate clarifying guidelines or rules that ensure favorable tax treatment of certain retirement plan contributions picked up by governmental employees when employees are given an option to choose a lower-cost plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact any necessary legislation that would enable such U.S. Treasury policies, and otherwise facilitate local and state government's ability to work cooperatively with employees and unions in addressing long-term structural pension plan issues.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INNOVATION IN LOCAL POLICIES TO ADVANCE SHARABLE CITIES

WHEREAS, in 2013, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution “In Support of Policies for Sharable Cities” advocating the development of local policies to make cities more shareable in order to redefine the ways that goods and services are exchanged, valued and created amongst citizens by enabling affordable access as an alternative to ownership; and

WHEREAS, mayors are leading the nation in developing innovative new public policies to support the evolution of the sharing economy while assuring proper protection of the public and consumer interest and the appropriate incidence of taxation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the continued innovation and dissemination by mayors of policy, fiscal, and regulatory frameworks at the local level to develop and broaden the social and economic benefits of collaborative consumption and encourages mayors to take local action such as the following:

- Create and manage city bike sharing programs; and
- Incorporate car sharing in new multi-unit housing developments; and
- Develop and apply taxation frameworks for car sharing that achieve municipal purposes and are appropriate to collaborative consumption; and
- Remove barriers and apply appropriately tailored zoning for urban agriculture for the farming and selling of crops on urban properties; and
- Consider a tax increment subvention for property owners who farm vacant or underutilized urban lots in blighted areas; and
- Inventory land within the city that may have potential for temporary or permanent food cultivation; and
- Make available commercial kitchens in city and other local facilities to act as incubators for restaurateurs and other emergent food enterprises; and
- Facilitate the creation of accessory dwelling units; and
- Allow short-term rentals of homeowner residential units, with appropriate limits on guest nights, percentage of income generated, and other regulatory controls; and

- Facilitate the temporary use of empty commercial spaces with appropriate incentives and disincentives for property owners and banks.

Project Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL HOME RULE AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, home rule is the power of a local municipality to set up its own system of governing and local ordinances without being governed by the state and limited only by the state constitution and statutes; and

WHEREAS, local government has the right and responsibility to govern in the best interest of its citizens without the preemptions of federal or state government; and

WHEREAS, a state government may not strike down a local government ordinance unless it *explicitly* conflicts with state law; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates represent the greatest infringement upon home rule authority; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that federal and state governments provide an analysis of funding necessary to comply with federal mandates and provide adequate funding; and

WHEREAS, local governments shall have a meaningful and timely input into the development of regulatory proposals that contain significant mandates; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the input shall be commensurate with the significance of the action being taken with the more controversial, costly and disruptive actions requiring more consultation; and

WHEREAS, this input shall build a better understanding and strengthen the partnership between federal, state and local governments while giving full consideration to the necessary funding of specific mandates.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports home rule authority for all cities in the United States and rejects any and all measures by federal and state governments that seek to limit this authority.

Projected Cost: Unknown

URGING ADEQUATE INVESTMENT IN VETERANS’ TRANSITION AND INCREASED COORDINATION OF TRANSITION EFFORTS WITH MAYORS

WHEREAS, with the end of the Iraq war in 2011 and the planned drawdown of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, the Defense Department estimated that more than one million service members would leave the military between 2011 and 2016. Last year the White House estimated that between 240,000 and 360,000 would be separating from the military each year. The growth in separations is expected to continue as the Pentagon cuts troop levels in line with current budget caps and current plans to streamline military operations; and

WHEREAS, a variety of programs have been launched in the public and private sectors to ease the transition of the large number of veterans returning from the longest military conflict in the nation’s history. The Department of Veterans Affairs and other federal agencies offer assistance in a range of areas including employment, health, housing, and education, and provide other benefits to veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is widely acknowledged that a significant percentage of returning veterans do not avail themselves of the services and benefits provided by the VA and other federal agencies, and that this can translate into both loss of revenue and higher costs for local governments. For example, with just over half of recent Iraq and Afghanistan veterans estimated to be receiving their health care through the VA, many veterans and their families are relying on community primary care and mental health facilities; and

WHEREAS, at one point during the recent recession, the unemployment rate for veterans was 50 percent higher than the rate for nonveterans. While the unemployment rate for veterans has declined in recent years, it continues to be more than a percentage point higher than for nonveterans. For the rapidly growing ranks of veterans returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts in particular, finding a job has been difficult: Their unemployment rate runs higher than that of both their civilian counterparts and veterans of previous conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Defense Department has advised local governments organizations that grant funds will be available to them to aid in the transition of veterans to civilian life, but the amount currently programmed for this effort is judged to be small in comparison to the scale of the transition effort the nation’s cities anticipate will be required if veterans and their families are to secure employment, housing, and other needed services; and

WHEREAS, beyond the challenges associated with aiding large numbers of returning veterans, cities expect to be affected, directly and indirectly, by projected reductions in spending for national defense, and local workforces and economies will be affected by lower levels of military procurement and by the abandonment or downsizing of military facilities located in proximity to urban areas,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to acknowledge that the scale of the transition effort for veterans in the post-Iraq, post-Afghanistan era will require an unprecedented investment in services needed to minimize disruptions in their lives and the lives of their families, and to make the necessary investments to minimize the time and costs incurred during their transition to local workforces and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs to recognize and support the role of mayors in the coordination of city-wide and region-wide efforts to ease the transition of veterans to civilian life, and to establish an open channel of communication with the nation's mayors on transition efforts as well as efforts to maintain stability in local economies affected by cutbacks in defense procurement and military facilities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

THE JOINING FORCES INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has ordered a mandatory, accelerated drawdown of active duty forces, using a full menu of involuntary separation programs to reduce personnel and meet budgetary goals by the end of Fiscal Year 2015, as the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan come to an end; and

WHEREAS, First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden have launched the Joining Forces Initiative to engage all sectors of society to give service members and their families the opportunities and support they have earned; and

WHEREAS, the Joining Force Initiative seeks to expand employment and career development opportunities for veterans and military spouses, to promote expanded education opportunities, and to call attention to critical wellness issues facing veterans and their families while expanding access to wellness programs and resources; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration and The United States Conference of Mayors share a joint belief that no veteran should have to fight for a job at after they fight for our nation overseas; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has solicited on-going commitments from a number of American companies that jointly resolve to hire or train veterans or military spouses; and

WHEREAS, mayors are uniquely positioned to highlight the workforce potential of veterans and military spouses, and to encourage local employers to reduce barriers to jobs such as licensing or credentialing; and

WHEREAS, mayors have the ability to convene community organizations and resources in order to provide support services that address the needs of veterans and military families,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the efforts of First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to draw attention to the needs of veterans and military families under the Joining Forces Initiative, especially as the Department of Defense has implemented an accelerated drawdown strategy to attain drastic reductions in manpower in the coming months; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages all mayors to ensure that their communities are well-equipped to help returning veterans successfully transition into the civilian workforce through the provision of workforce development and training programs and to also ensure that military spouses and families have access to educational opportunities and critical support services.

Projected Cost: None

Supporting Pro-Growth Policies Benefiting Middle Market Businesses Nationally

WHEREAS, the nation's middle market sector of the economy, representing approximately 200,000 businesses with revenue between \$10 million and \$1 billion, faces diverse challenges to growth that will negatively affect the nation's future economic growth capacity; and

WHEREAS, negative impact to this sector will harm the nation's growth capabilities more so than other sectors, as the middle market segment of the economy, although only representative of 3 percent of businesses nationally, is responsible for 30 percent of the nation's private sector gross domestic product (GDP); and

WHEREAS, negative impact to this sector will harm the nation's hiring prospects more than any other economic sector, as the middle market accounts for one-third of U.S. workers and is projected to account for 59 percent of all new jobs in 2014; and

WHEREAS, failing to address the growth challenges of middle market companies would threaten businesses that have shown to generate growth for the U.S. economy both in times of recession and expansion; and

WHEREAS, government officials at all levels, from the local to federal level, have traditionally overlooked the middle-market sector of the economy; and

WHEREAS, a key challenge faced by middle market business executives since the Great Recession has been concerns and uncertainty regarding government regulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on elected officials at all levels of government to promote pro-growth business policies that recognize the potential and importance of the middle market sector of the economy.

Projected Cost: Unknown

URGING ENACTMENT OF THE MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS ACT

WHEREAS, in the 1967 *Bellas Hess* and 1992 *Quill* decisions, the Supreme Court ruled that, absent specific congressional authorization, state and local governments states do not have the authority to require the collection of sales tax by businesses that have no physical presence or nexus in the state; and

WHEREAS, in those decisions several Justices indicate that Congress can and should remedy this situation; and

WHEREAS, the growth of Internet retail has considerably magnified the impact of *Bellas Hess* and *Quill*; and

WHEREAS, current law results in billions of dollars in uncollected sales tax and gives an unfair advantage to remote retailers over owners of brick-and-mortar businesses located in our nation's cities; and

WHEREAS, the lack of fair competition is impacting local retailers and the commercial real estate market; and

WHEREAS, a University of Tennessee study estimates that the inability to collect sales tax from remote retailers costs state and local governments \$23 billion in lost revenue in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the constraints imposed by the Supreme Court decisions threaten the future viability of the sales tax as a revenue source for states and local governments in this changing market for consumer goods and services; and

WHEREAS, authorizing remote sales and use tax collection will:

- Allow state and local governments to collect taxes rightfully owed,
- Reduce the probability that new taxes or higher taxes will be needed to balance state and local budgets, and
- Ensure a balanced playing field for local retailers.

WHEREAS, last year the Senate passed the Marketplace Fairness Act (S 743) with a large bipartisan majority; and

WHEREAS, S 743 would grant states the authority to require retailers, regardless of nexus, to collect state and local government sales tax; and

WHEREAS, S 743 would require remote retailers to collect sales tax pursuant to the application destination rate, defined as the sum of the applicable state rate and any applicable rate for the local jurisdiction (local sales tax or local option sales tax) into which the sale is made; and

WHEREAS, S 743 would exempt retailers with less than \$1 million in remotes sales annually; and

WHEREAS, S 743 would create fair competition between brick-and-mortar and remote retailers; and

WHEREAS, S 743 would provide fiscal relief for state and local governments without affecting the federal budget; and

WHEREAS, until Congress enacts legislation to permit state and local governments to require the collection of sales tax, state and local governments will not be able to close the sales tax revenue gap between what is owed on out-of-state remote transactions, and what is currently collected; and

WHEREAS, S 743 is the product of years of hearings, negotiations and debate on this issue and reflects a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on how Congress should address this issue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors thanks Senators Reid, Alexander, Durbin and Enzi for their bipartisan leadership to garner passage of S 743 in the Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the House of Representatives to take up and pass S 743 so as to conclude Congressional action on the Marketplace Fairness Act this year.

Projected Cost: Unknown

TOURISM, ARTS, PARKS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

ARTS, HEALTH, AND WELL-BEING ACROSS THE MILITARY CONTINUUM

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is eternally grateful for the men and women who have served to protect freedom around the world and who have put themselves in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, the arts play a role in helping the military sustain and promote troop force and family *readiness, resilience, retention*, and for veterans, the successful *reintegration* into family and community life by providing arts services and programs on a healing to wellness continuum—from recovery from physical and mental wounds, to workforce and life transitions; and

WHEREAS, the creative arts in healthcare includes the professional disciplines of art therapy, music therapy, dance therapy, drama therapy, and poetry therapy, as well as artist-directed applications of visual, literary and performing arts, and design within a wide variety of healthcare and community settings for therapeutic, educational, and expressive purposes; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts on behalf of the [National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military](#) released [Arts, Health and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum—White Paper and Framing a National Plan for Action](#) in November 2013, which for the first time details a series of recommendations in the areas of research, practice, and policy from a two-year investigation and conversations with more than 500 thought leaders, practitioners and decision-makers from throughout the military, veteran, government, corporate, foundation, arts and nonprofit communities on how the arts can help mitigate the challenges our military and veterans face as the conflicts wind down, and our service men and women return home; and

WHEREAS, arts and health experiences in the military and for veterans are most effective when they are person-centered, family-centered, and cover the entire lifespan; and

WHEREAS, creative arts therapists, artists in healthcare, and artists and performers offer unique and individualized experiences at every stage along a healing continuum from recovery to wellness such as distraction to stress reduction to pain relief to remembering a sense of self to regaining hope to reconnecting with community; and

WHEREAS, members of the National Guard and the Reserves and their families have special challenges as they lack the support structure that living on or near a military base can provide. The arts can be valuable in bridging issues of isolation; and

WHEREAS, research outcomes for creative arts therapies programs include improved quality and effectiveness of care, enhanced psychosocial and physical health, decreased agitation, increased response to rehabilitation treatment, and improved caregiver coping skills; and

WHEREAS, current federal interagency efforts to invest in and broaden the arts and health research agenda in the military should be expanded. Both quantitative and qualitative research methods should be supported and expanded to include veterans, military families and caregivers; and

WHEREAS, military and veterans policies must reflect arts programming and creative arts therapies services for the true integration of arts and health programming to occur across the military continuum; and

WHEREAS, the arts should be formally recognized as part of military and veteran healthcare systems, and comprehensive policies for the arts and creative arts therapies should be put in place to promote the physical, emotional, and overall health of the force as early as in enlistment to help assure military readiness; and

WHEREAS, Defense Health Agency and Veterans Health Affairs policies should position arts and health programs and services advantageously within the system in order to support patient- and family-centered care, staff well-being, and transitioning the patient to post-medical center lives, such as locating creative arts therapists within physical therapy, occupational therapy, rehabilitation medicine, or behavioral health departments where thoughtful arts interventions based on assessment would be part of treatment plans; and

WHEREAS, increasing public and private sector funding for program development, implementation and evaluation will aid in the sustainability of programs that have proven effective; and

WHEREAS, Congressional backing and legislative action can provide a federal mandate for the development and implementation of arts initiatives, e.g. designating funding through the *Department of Defense*, *TRICARE*, and the *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs* for demonstration projects for veterans and active military to access cost-effective creative arts in healthcare treatment and programming,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Health Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services and other key federal agencies and their private sector and nonprofit partners to adopt and work together to advance the recommendations included in the [*Arts, Health and Well-Being Across the Military Continuum—White Paper and Framing a National Plan for Action*](#) that address the inclusion of arts in healing, wellness and building resilience; the concept of person- and family-centered care, that one size does not fit all; timeline variations for wounded service members; healing as a lifelong process that includes community reintegration and transition into employment and/or educational opportunities, aging, and end of life, and the integration of the full spectrum of artist providers across this healing continuum from creative arts therapists, to artists in healthcare and artists/performers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support funding for creative arts in healthcare research priorities within the federal agencies involved with the Arts and Human Development Interagency Task Force, including the National Institutes of Health, Administration on Aging, and the U.S. Department of Education; support the Veteran's Health and Benefits Improvement Act of 2013 (S.944) and the Veterans and Armed Forces Health Promotion Act (H.R. 3516) to improve access to complementary and alternative medicine interventions, including creative arts therapies, as well as direct the Veteran's Health Administration in the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Military Health System in the Department of Defense to expand cost-effective creative arts therapies and artist-directed programs designed to address health, well-being and resilience across the military continuum.

Projected Cost: Unknown

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities affect every aspect of life in America today including the economy, social problem solving, job creation, education, creativity, and community livability; and

WHEREAS, cities and states – through their local and state arts agencies and representing thousands of cultural organizations –have celebrated the value and importance of culture in the lives of Americans and the health of thriving communities during National Arts and Humanities Month for several years; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has actively participated in National Arts and Humanities Month since 1984; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors' national arts partner, Americans for the Arts, will again coordinate this year a national awareness campaign of activities for National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, The nation's 95,000 nonprofit arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation's 5,000 local arts agencies, the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and the six U.S. jurisdictions, and the President of the United States have participated in the past and will be asked to participate again this year in this national celebration; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2014 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local arts agencies and other members of the arts and humanities community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, and to celebrate the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ARTS FUNDING

WHEREAS, the arts, humanities and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, humanities and museum programs, activities, and efforts in the cities and states of America; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's and the NEH's 48 years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, more than 95,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 5,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding leverages up to four times more in matching funds from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, according to Americans for the Arts research, federal arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of local arts agencies in America's cities and counties with \$727 million annually in local government funding, \$279 million in state government funding to the arts, \$138.4 million each for the NEA and NEH and \$13.1 billion in private giving to the arts; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities stimulates local economies and improves the quality of civic life throughout the country — the NEA, NEH and IMLS support programs, such as the Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) that enhance community development, promote cultural planning, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw significant cultural tourism dollars, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities is essential to promote full access to and participation in exhibits, performances, arts education and other cultural events regardless of family income; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's "Our Town" initiative invests \$5 million in grants to 80 communities in 44 states to support planning and design projects, and arts engagement strategies; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013 National Arts Index, conducted by Americans for the Arts, a measure of the health and vitality of the arts in the United States, composed of 77 equal-weighted, national-level indicators of arts and culture

activity that covers the 14-year period from 1998 to 2011, found that while the Index decreased 1.1 percent in 2011, from 97.4 to 96.3, federal funding for the arts remains crucial given the 6.5 point overall decline from 102.8 in 2007; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local financial support for the arts has fallen over the last decade, additional NEA funding to support a competitive local re-granting program should be re-established to provide incentives for local governments to invest in targeted ways in the arts by infusing \$5-10 million in new dedicated federal funding to local arts agencies, which would be matched to spur new local investment; and

WHEREAS, the NEA plays a very important role in developing partnerships with other federal agencies such as HUD, Education and Transportation, in order to open new channels for arts organizations to work with all aspects of government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its strong support of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and calls upon Congress to provide a \$9 million funding increase for both the NEA and the NEH and an \$8.5 million increase for museums within IMLS, bringing these agencies FY 2015 budgets up to \$155 million each for the NEA and NEH, and \$38.6 million for museums within the IMLS in order to better serve the needs of arts organizations of all sizes in communities across the country; and

13. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, create jobs, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America's cities.

Projected Cost: \$155 million for the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)
\$155 million for the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)
\$38.6 million for Office of Museum Services within the Institute of
Museum and Library Services (IMLS)

ENCOURAGING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE ARTS

WHEREAS, businesses play a key role in ensuring the health and vitality of the nation's arts sector with more than \$3 billion in arts funding from small, midsize and large companies; and

WHEREAS, there are numerous reasons why businesses support the arts from the way the arts improve the quality of life of the community, to education initiatives that benefit the community, to the ways the arts improve academic performance; and

WHEREAS, when businesses partner with community-based, local arts agencies and organizations, they partner with the whole city because the arts are essential to the health and vitality of neighborhoods, cities, states and our nation. They enhance community development, create jobs, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw tourism dollars, and create an environment that attracts skilled and educated workers; and

WHEREAS, The pARTnership Movement, a public awareness campaign from Americans for the Arts is designed to provide businesses and arts organizations with the resources they need to make meaningful collaborations—partnerships that not only support a healthy, creative, and artistic community, but that also give businesses a competitive advantage; and

WHEREAS, The pARTnership Movement demonstrates how arts partnerships help businesses enhance the critical thinking and creative skills of their workforce. It also prepares arts organizations to partner with businesses in new and innovative ways to advance business goals and enhance communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges local businesses and local arts agencies and organizations to partner to advance arts, business and the community.

Projected Cost: Unknown

AMERICA'S CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

WHEREAS, the creative industries are arts-centric businesses that range from nonprofit museums, symphonies, and theatres to commercial film, architecture, and advertising companies; and

WHEREAS, the creative industries are one of the fastest-growing sectors in the information economy—throughout the country and in every community; and

WHEREAS, arts businesses and the creative people they employ stimulate innovation, strengthen America's competitiveness in the global marketplace, and play an important role in building and sustaining economic vibrancy; and

WHEREAS, the creative industries serve as magnets to attract and retain businesses and their employees, and are the main reason for stimulating a marked increase in cultural tourism; and

WHEREAS, the creative industries are integral to every community. Jobs supported by the creative industries cannot, for the most part, be “outsourced” to other countries, but they can enjoy having their work product be one of America’s leading exports, with \$72 billion annually in overseas sales, achieving a \$47 billion trade surplus in 2011 (UNESCO); and

WHEREAS, in 2014, Americans for the Arts’ analysis of Dun & Bradstreet data found that there are 750,453 arts-centric creative industry businesses in America, representing 4.2 percent of all U.S. businesses; and

WHEREAS, it has been further found that these 750,453 creative industry businesses support 3.1 million jobs nationwide, representing 2.1 percent of the U.S. workforce; and

WHEREAS, Americans for the Arts makes a customized Creative Industries comparison report about the 100 largest U.S. cities as well as all 50 states, 3,144 counties, 435 Congressional Districts, and 7,400 state legislative districts freely available on its website,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors bring this important data to the attention of local, state, and federal policy and lawmakers and private sector leaders for use in fostering creative industries and jobs in order to build economically vibrant communities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND URBAN PARKS

WHEREAS, nearly four in five Americans now live in urban areas; and

WHEREAS, urban areas are the engines generating our nation's wealth, keeping America competitive in the rapidly changing global market, and the most economically sound cities are the ones with ample parks and open spaces; and

WHEREAS, a key factor in business relocation decisions is the quality of life for employees, with a premium on adequate parks and open space, and for every \$1 million invested in parks and recreation infrastructure, at least 20 jobs are created; and

WHEREAS, healthy parks and urban green spaces are strongly linked to a greater sense of safety, less aggressive and violent behavior and lower levels of crime; and

WHEREAS, children living near parks have greater opportunities to be physically active by running, walking or participating in other recreational activities, thereby helping to combat the problem that one in three children in the U.S. are overweight or obese; and

WHEREAS, parks and open spaces help mitigate the impacts of climate change by helping to cool cities, clean the air, and capture and store rain during extreme precipitation events; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which has strong bi-partisan support, is one of the nation's most important tools for creating and protecting green space in America's urban areas; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has supported more than 42,000 projects that are found in 98% of the nation's counties; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is key to providing local governments the tools to ensure plentiful close-to-home parks, green spaces and recreational opportunities and in turn strengthens America's urban and metropolitan communities, is set to expire on September 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell issued a Secretarial Order to implement a youth initiative to engage the next generation of youth and bridge the growing disconnect between young people and the outdoors; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called on Congress to fully fund the Land Water and Conservation Fund at its fully authorized amount of \$900 million in its FY '15 appropriations bill, revenue derived from oil and gas royalty revenue and not from personal taxes; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has called on Congress to resurrect the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program with a request of \$25 million in its FY '15 appropriations bill; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors applauds President Barack Obama for his leadership and commitment to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million and UPARR at \$25 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at its fully funded \$900 million to help establish and support great urban parks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support the President's request to fund UPARR at \$25 million in its FY '15 appropriations bill; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Mayors to raise awareness of the need for greater public and private investment in parks and green space to create healthy, walkable and sustainable cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the nation's Mayors stand ready to work in partnership with the President, all members of the Administration and Congress to create healthy and vibrant urban parks and open spaces, and will work to engage the public and private leaders in this effort.

Projected Cost: Land and Water Conservation Fund \$900 million
Urban Parks Recreation and recovery Program \$25 million

INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY AND JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, jazz is an original American art form that affirms the noblest aspirations of our national character, individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Jazz has produced some of America's leading creative artists and ranks as one of America's greatest exports to the world; and

WHEREAS, jazz has inspired dancers, choreographers, poets, novelists, filmmakers, classical composers, and musicians in many other kinds of music; and

WHEREAS, we honor and recognize the outstanding work that all jazz artists, educators, and enthusiasts present; and

WHEREAS, jazz has spoken eloquently of freedom for people in the United States and abroad, and has become an international language that bridges differences and brings people of all races, ages, and backgrounds together; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2015 cities will celebrate International Jazz Day and mayors are encouraged to plan jazz related activities and programming; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors members participated in Jazz Day and Jazz Appreciation Month for the past six years; and

WHEREAS, the month of April 2015 has been designated as Jazz Appreciation Month,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local jazz society and other members of the arts and music community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, International Jazz Day April 30, 2015 and to celebrate the month of April as Jazz Appreciation Month.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

WHEREAS, on September 11, 2001, the United States was attacked and our world was changed forever when terrorists murdered nearly 3,000 innocent people at the World Trade Center, at the Pentagon, and aboard United Flight 93, which crashed in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, in the largest terrorist attack ever committed in the United States; and

WHEREAS, established in 2003, the National September 11 Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center Foundation, a nonprofit organization, has been dedicated to raising funds for and overseeing the design, construction, and operation of the Memorial and Museum at the World Trade Center site; and

WHEREAS, the Memorial and Museum will ensure that future generations never forget the thousands of innocent men, women and children murdered by terrorists on September 11, 2001 in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia, as well as those who died in the terrorist bombing at the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993; and

WHEREAS, since opening its doors on September 11, 2011, the 10th anniversary of the attacks, the National September 11 Memorial has been visited by over 12 million people from all 50 states and over 150 foreign countries, reflecting the enormous impact the attacks had across this nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, on May 15, 2014, President Obama dedicated the Museum in front of 700 guests, calling it a “sacred place of healing and hope,” and Mayor Bill de Blasio spoke of the “last and long-sought path to survival” down the Vesey Street staircase. In attendance for this ceremony were dignitaries, September 11 survivors, first responders, and victims’ families; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2014, the Museum opened to the public. The Museum holds more than 10,000 artifacts; more than 23,000 still images; more than 500 hours of film and video; more than 1,970 oral histories; and, more than 2,100 archival documents; and

WHEREAS, no federal support currently is received by the Museum for operational expenses, and therefore much of the financial burden of maintaining the Memorial and Museum currently is passed on to visitors through high admission prices,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to financially support the operations of the Museum so that all visitors have an opportunity to remember and honor thousands of innocent victims; respect the site made sacred through tragic loss; recognize the endurance of the individuals who survived the attacks; the courage of the individuals who risked their lives to save others; and the compassion of the individuals who supported the people of the United States in our darkest hours.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ENACT LEGISLATION THIS YEAR TO REAUTHORIZE BRAND USA

WHEREAS, the United States has always been one of the most attractive destinations in the world for leisure and business travel, garnering a 17 percent share of the international travel market until 2001; and

WHEREAS, the inbound market is highly lucrative, with international visitors spending on average \$4,500 per trip to the United States; and

WHEREAS, America's historic share plummeted during the decade after the September 11, 2001 attacks, even as the global travel market expanded; and

WHEREAS, this decline was due to inefficiencies in the U.S. visa and entry process and the lack of any promotional activity to market the brand of the United States; and

WHEREAS, many cities worked during this period to persuade the federal government to focus on these deficiencies so the United States could compete effectively in the booming world travel market; and

WHEREAS, the Congress in 2010 enacted the Travel Promotion Act, creating what became known as Brand USA to promote the United States as a world-wide destination; and

WHEREAS, two years later, the President launched the National Travel and Tourism Strategy to attract 100 million international visitors to the United States by 2021; and

WHEREAS, the work of Brand USA is now critical to achieving the goals of the National Travel and Tourism Strategy; and

WHEREAS, Brand USA is financed by a modest fee on foreign visitors from Visa Waiver Program nations, matched by cash and in-kind contributions from the U.S. private sector; and

WHEREAS, Brand USA works closely with local travel and tourism officials in all 50 states and six territories and the District of Columbia – both in metropolitan gateways and smaller heartland communities – to leverage their marketing needs in an inclusive and cost-efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, Brand USA increased international travel to the U.S. in 2013 by 2.3 percent, resulting in 1.1 million additional trips; and

WHEREAS, the additional visitation spurred by Brand USA in 2013 generated \$3.4 billion in new visitor spending and \$7.4 billion in increased economic output, supporting more than 53,000 U.S. jobs; and

WHEREAS, the additional visitors spending created by Brand USA generated \$972 million in federal, state and local tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, Brand USA returns an astonishing \$47 in direct economic benefits for every one dollar invested in travel promotion; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, a record 70 million international travelers visited the United States; and

WHEREAS, travel is now America's top services export and one in nine U.S. jobs depends on travel and tourism; and

WHEREAS, based on this success to date, the global market offers enormous opportunities for further growth in inbound international travel; and

WHEREAS, studies also show that foreign nationals who visit the United States return home far friendlier to the U.S. and sympathetic to U.S. policies; and

WHEREAS, increased travel to the United States thus also significantly enhances U.S. public diplomacy around the world; and

WHEREAS, by attracting more visitors, Brand US increases U.S. economic growth, spurs job creation and generates new tax revenue for communities across America; and

WHEREAS, the current statutory authorization for Brand USA expires at the end of FY 2015; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to sustain the important work of Brand USA to achieve the objectives of the National Travel and Tourism Strategy and to spur job growth across our nation; and

WHEREAS, congressional legislation known as the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014 (S. 2250/H.R. 4450) is now pending to reauthorize the work of Brand USA for an additional five years; and

WHEREAS, this legislation was introduced recently with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the U.S. Congress to enact the Travel Promotion, Enhancement, and Modernization Act of 2014 into law this year.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CREATING JOBS THROUGH INCREASED TRAVEL TO THE U.S.

WHEREAS, last year (2013), the \$888 billion travel industry generated \$2.1 trillion in total economic output and has the potential to grow – and to grow fast; and

WHEREAS, international travel to the United States in particular is one of the most effective forms of economic stimulus. In 2013, spending by international visitors directly supported 1.2 million American jobs and generated \$181 billion in U.S. exports; and

WHEREAS, increasing international travel in the United States is effective economic stimulus. When international visitors travel to the United States, they inject new money into the U.S. economy by staying in U.S. hotels, eating at U.S. restaurants, spending in U.S. stores, and visiting U.S. attractions; and

WHEREAS, international business travelers often attend conferences and trade shows in the U.S., and engage in face-to-face negotiations that yield sales of U.S. commercial goods and services; and

WHEREAS, expenditures made by international visitors made up one out of every 6.5 dollars spent by travelers in the United States. The travel industry generated a record international trade surplus of \$57 billion in 2013; and

WHEREAS, as a means to create jobs and economic development through trade and tourism, the legislation authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to admit into the United States a qualifying Canadian citizen over 50 years old and his or her spouse for a period not to exceed 240 days if the person 1) maintains a Canadian residence and 2) owns a U.S. residence or has rented a U.S. accommodation for the duration of such stay, and

WHEREAS, the employment recovery in the travel industry has outpaced the rest of the economy and much of this employment growth is being supported by the spending of international visitors traveling in the United States. Of the 131,000 jobs added in the travel industry in 2013, more than a two in five was supported by international travel spending; and

WHEREAS, the most lucrative segment of international travel for the United States is the overseas market. These visitors tend to stay longer and spend more money while in the United States. On average, every overseas visitor spends \$4,500 during their trip to the United States compared with less than \$1,000 for Canadian and Mexican visitors. In fact, the spending from every 34 overseas visitors traveling in the United States supports one U.S. job; and

WHEREAS, if the U.S. could regain 17 percent of global long-haul travel market share by 2020, the U.S. would receive 59.5 million overseas arrivals, \$265.4 billion in travel spending, and 1.4 million travel jobs in 2020. This means, the U.S. would gain an additional 49.8 million visitors and \$222 billion in travel spending cumulatively from 2014 to 2020, generating 452,000 new jobs over the current (2013) level; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the Visa Waiver Program (VWP) established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to appropriate countries increases United States security; and

WHEREAS, VWP was created by Congress in 1986 to facilitate overseas business and leisure travel to the United States—and amended in 2007 so that it significantly enhances homeland security in addition to facilitating travel; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, countries included in the VWP were the largest source of inbound travel, sending from overseas more than 19 million visitors, or 60 percent of all overseas visitors, to the United States (i.e. international visitors other than those from our next-door neighbors Canada and Mexico); and

WHEREAS, in 2013, VWP visitors spent \$79 billion while traveling to and within the U.S., directly supporting more than half a million American jobs along with \$13 billion in payroll and generating \$12 billion in tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, Congress has enacted legislation supporting an effort to develop and conduct a pilot program using secure videoconferencing technology to interview visa applicants in order to allow applicants greater access to the U.S. visa application process,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and the Congress to enact this year the pending Jobs Through Launching Travel Act (JOLT Act/H.R. 1354), to implement the following sensible reforms to the U.S. visa process:

- Based on available data concerning travel habits, booking patterns, and generally accepted marketing principles, the Secretary of State shall set a standard of processing 90 percent of all visa interviews within 10 business days; and
- The Secretary of Homeland Security should regain authority to expand the Visa Waiver Program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to countries with visa refusal rates up to 10 percent; and
- The Secretary of State should develop “premium processing” system to expedite short-term tourist and business visas for a fee; and

- The State Department should use the Congressional authority it has to conduct a pilot program using secure videoconferencing technology to interview visa applicants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the concept of extended legal stays by our neighbors who own or rent a residence in our country, but calls on the Congress to amend the legislation to extend its benefits to any resident of a bordering nation that meets all of the criteria set out in the bill.

Projected Cost: Unknown

REGARDING TRAVEL FACILITATION ISSUES

WHEREAS, airports play a vital role in the economy of the United States, providing for the efficient movement of people and goods to both domestic and international destinations; and

WHEREAS, airports are responsible for 10.5 million jobs, create an annual payroll of \$365 billion and produce an annual output of \$1.2 trillion; and

WHEREAS, travel and tourism play an important role in the economies of our nation's cities and are central to many city economic development plans; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has taken a lead role in promoting travel and tourism, including international travel and tourism to the U.S. by foreign nationals; and

WHEREAS, it is critical to our nation's airports to quickly, safely, and effectively move passengers through Customs and Border Protection (CBP) processing to ensure the United States' economic vitality driven by international business and trade; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to expand international travel for business, academic, medical, and leisure travel through expanded visa reciprocity and streamlined visa processes among the United States (U.S.) and other nations; and

WHEREAS, risk-based screening efforts like Global Entry (GE) significantly decrease the wait times for international passengers by reducing the number of passengers needing to be processed by an officer; and

WHEREAS, foreign nationals are discouraged from visiting U.S. destinations due to disproportionate waiting times, a lack of resources and outdated technology and screening procedures; and

WHEREAS, efficient facilitation of internationally arriving travelers at the gateway airports is vital to ensuring the continued growth of the U.S. economy; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Travel Association, improving the inbound air travel experience could add \$85 billion in air traveler spending which would support 900,000 jobs nationally; and

WHEREAS, long wait times for U.S. visas (for example an average of 50 days in Brazil) hinder the ability of foreign nationals to travel to the U.S., robbing our nation's economy of billions of travel and tourism dollars; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of unnecessary interviews for low-risk visa applicants (visa renewals, full-time students, etc.) would allow consular officers to put greater focus on high-risk or first-time applicants and ease the burden for legitimate travelers to the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, doubling spending by visitors from Brazil, China and India specifically could result in an additional \$15 billion to the U.S. economy, creating another 105,000 jobs in the travel and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, the Administration made good first steps to expand the Visa Waiver Program (VWP), expand reciprocal trusted traveler programs, and start pilot programs to increase visa waivers for some nations' low-risk groups; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of State has the authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend the duration of visas issued to Chinese nationals, from the current one-year period to a longer period (two, five or ten years), which would significantly reduce the number of travelers reapplying at the limited number of Embassies/Consulates in China,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the following actions by the Customs and Border Protection and the Department of State:

- Provide all top 25 international airports with daily actual wait times logged per Federal Inspection Services (FIS) facility, for greater transparency and communication, as well as the ability to monitor progress towards a goal; and
- Adopt a 30 minute goal of processing all international arriving passengers through Primary Passport Control, which would illustrate the need for additional officers, revised scheduling and queue management and/or new technology programs; and
- Provide additional staffing to provide adequate service to accommodate the growing number of international passengers; and

- Implement a close cooperation with airports to increase efficiency of operations and scheduling at current levels to maximize the number of officers in booths during peak periods, effectively reducing wait times for passengers; and
- Expand negotiations of International Reciprocal Agreements to increase the number of travelers eligible for the GE Program; and
- Provide all top 25 international airports with GE data relative to numbers of enrollments and kiosk usage (broken down by US citizens and foreign nationals) nationally and in our respective airports to gauge the effectiveness of promotional efforts and media outreach; and
- Funds generated (\$55 million) from the elimination of the user fee exemption for Mexico/Canada/Caribbean should be directly applied to increase resources/staff for airport passenger processing; and
- Consolidate the CBP user fees, currently at \$17.50 for Customs, Immigration and USDA inspection services per arriving international passenger, into one fee and increase to a level that reflects 50 percent of CBP personnel costs (currently user fees account for 37 percent of CBP's staffing budget of \$2.98 billion), with the additional revenue to be used to expand CBP staffing at U.S. international gateway airports; and
- Institute a pilot program to provide easier processing for in-transit (international-to-international connecting) passengers at the top 25 international airports. This would provide a better service to passengers, guaranteeing connections, and would eliminate these travelers from the general processing queue; and
- Reduce the time of visa processing for all applicants (especially China and Brazil); and
- Implement a pilot to waive in-person interviews for certain low-risk applicants (visa renewals, full-time students, etc.); and
- Expand the Visa Waiver Program to key target countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Chile, to significantly increase business and tourism to the U.S. and deploy consular officers to high-risk/volume countries, and
- Extend the duration of visas issued to Chinese nationals, from the current one-year period to a longer period (two, five or ten years), which would significantly reduce the number of travelers reapplying at the limited number of Embassies/Consulates in China.

Projected Cost: Unknown

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

RENEWAL OF THE FEDERAL SURFACE TRANSPORTATION LAW (MAP-21)

WHEREAS, the statute that authorizes and allocates funds from the federal transportation trust funds expires September 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the timely renewal of this law that provides local and state governments with partnership resources to maintain, expand and interconnect our nation's surface transportation networks, including bridge, highway, street, rail and public transit systems, is necessary for the timely delivery of economically-beneficial surface transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, revenues into the federal transportation trust funds are insufficient to sustain current program commitments, threatening the timely completion of projects awaiting construction funding or those already under construction; and

WHEREAS, trust fund revenue shortfalls must be dealt with immediately to ensure that such projects are not disrupted or postponed during this construction year; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration must come together and reach agreement on legislation to address both the immediate and longer-term revenue needs of the transportation trust funds; and

WHEREAS, such an agreement should generate sufficient revenues to increase current funding commitments over a six-year renewal period, a reauthorization timeframe that follows earlier transportation laws and responds to the enormity of the nation's transportation infrastructure challenges; and

WHEREAS, the most recent surface transportation law, *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21), failed to respond to this challenges, providing essentially level funding over the two-year renewal period; and

WHEREAS, the MAP-21 law did consolidate many highway and related categories into a small number of "core" programs, with such changes and others reducing the overall share of federal dollars flowing to locally-determined transportation priorities, including fewer resources to maintain locally-owned bridges or fund local priorities; and

WHEREAS, local decision-makers, in both urbanized and non-urbanized areas, have less authority today than they did a generation ago in determining how federal highway resources are allocated, even though federal planning and other program requirements applicable to local areas, especially in metropolitan areas,

are sometimes more rigorous than those applicable to state transportation departments which receive most of the federal highway funding; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials continue to demonstrate that local governments are the most proficient level of government in delivering timely and cost effective transportation investments that grow local economies and improve mobility; and

WHEREAS, the nation's local elected officials and their local governments have demonstrated their commitment to funding transportation infrastructure, raising new revenues for highways, as one example, at a faster rate than their federal and state partners since 1998 (when Congress last enacted a six-year renewal law, TEA-21, with significantly higher funding levels); and

WHEREAS, mayors and other local elected leaders in the nation's metropolitan areas now produce most of the nation's economic output, with forecasts by Global Insight projecting this share will grow even larger in the future; and

WHEREAS, it is projected that these metropolitan areas will absorb more than 84 million people over the next 30 years, resulting in greater demands to improve and expand transportation infrastructure in these areas and provide more mobility options, especially public transit services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to move forward expeditiously on a bipartisan basis to enact a six-year surface transportation renewal, increasing revenue commitments sufficient to grow highway and transit program funding levels significantly above the rate of inflation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to renew MAP-21 to give additional emphasis to local decision-makers and their regions by directing available resources under the Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ), and the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to local areas as current law now provides for the share of STP funds allocated to metropolitan areas and other local areas within states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to enact additional statutory assurances and protections for local elected and appointed officials in areas under 200,000 in population which currently do not receive federal transportation funds directly through formula allocations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to give emphasis to the freight and mobility needs of local areas and regions by authorizing discretionary funding to U.S. DOT to make targeted resources available to local areas undertaking freight and mobility projects.

Projected Cost: Unknown

THE “GROW AMERICA ACT”

WHEREAS, the nation’s cities rely on the strength of America’s transportation infrastructure to move people and goods; and

WHEREAS, last year, the American Society of Civil Engineers assigned America’s infrastructure a grade of D+ overall, and estimated that \$3.6 trillion that would need to be invested to bring U.S. infrastructure up to an acceptable level; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration are in the midst of a debate about how to reauthorize transportation infrastructure spending, with the current transportation law *MAP-21* expiring at the end of September; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Trust Fund, which finances federally funded highway and transit projects, is projected to run out of funding in August without Congressional action; and

WHEREAS, in late April, the Obama Administration added its voice to the transportation infrastructure debate in a strong way by submitting its own transportation reauthorization bill, known as the *GROW AMERICA Act*, that would spend \$302 billion over four years on the country’s highways, bridges, transit, and rail systems; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Transportation Anthony Foxx, the former Mayor of Charlotte, led the Administration’s efforts in the development of this proposal,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors commends the Obama Administration, and especially Secretary Foxx for submitting to Congress the *GROW AMERICA Act*, which would significantly increase transit funding, support strong TIGER and TIFIA programs, support a multi-modal freight grant program, preserve the Transportation Alternatives program, and incentivize improved regional coordination among MPOs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to act with expediency to enact a long-term reauthorization of federal support for transportation infrastructure.

Projected Cost: \$302 billion over four years.

HIGH-PERFORMING METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, America’s metros, through their mayorally-led metropolitan planning organizations, have proven to be the most effective and efficient scale of government for planning, selecting, and designing transportation projects that are aligned with the economic development, environmental sustainability, and social equity objectives of their communities and the nation; and

WHEREAS, Mayors and metropolitan planning organizations also have the strongest record of delivering federally-assisted transportation projects on time and on budget; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has expressed longstanding support for devolving federal transportation planning and project delivery from states to regions using reformed metropolitan organizations with mayoral leadership to assure exceptional performance; and

WHEREAS, Secretary of Transportation and former Mayor of Charlotte, Anthony Foxx, has called for federal recognition, support, and incentives for consolidated high-performing metropolitan planning organizations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the evolution and federal recognition of high-performing metropolitan planning organizations with the following features:

- a. A consolidated geographic scope and scale aligned to the natural economic, circulation and mobility, and air basin contours of the region; and
- b. Strong processes and practices that demonstrate active involvement of member cities and counties, and which accounts for the appropriate balance of representation by the mayors of large cities and mayors of small and mid-sized cities; and
- c. Collaborative working relationships with related agencies within the region and with bordering regions with strong interregional impacts; and
- d. Performance-based transportation investment decisions made based on objective performance criteria rather than formula shares, and which analyze and consider the connections between land use pattern, transportation networks, and air quality impacts; and

- e. Demonstrated commitment to appreciating and considering the co-benefits and other impacts that transportation investments make on a wide range of issues, including public health, economic development, and social and economic equity; and
- f. Performance criteria used to make regional transportation investment plan decisions that are aligned with regional transportation plan goals and outcomes; and
- g. Analysis of scenarios designed to stress test conventional wisdom on regional trends and causal relationship on issues such as growth rates/patterns and evolving transportation technology travel behaviors; and
- h. Strong network relationships with stakeholders and civic, academic, philanthropic, business and other interests, other related governmental entities such as tribes, schools, and special districts; and
- i. Effective civic engagement through use of proactive and innovative methods to directly engage residents in the relationship between regional and local decisions, performance outcomes, and quality of life.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING HR 3636, THE UPDATE, PROMOTE, AND DEVELOP AMERICA'S TRANSPORTATION ESSENTIALS ACT OF 2013, AND OTHER EFFORTS TO STABILIZE FEDERAL FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, safe, affordable, and adequately maintained transportation infrastructure is essential to Portland's economy and a thriving community; and

WHEREAS, local transportation infrastructure is failing due to a continued lack of federal and state funding, requiring individual municipalities to enact regressive street fees to repair infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, federal gas tax revenues support both the Highway Trust Fund and the Mass Transit Account; and

WHEREAS, the federal Highway Trust Fund and Mass Transit Fund are both expected to be insolvent as soon as August 2014; and

WHEREAS, the federal gas tax has remained the same since 1993, while the costs of building and maintaining transportation infrastructure have continued to grow; and

WHEREAS, as vehicles become more efficient and use less gasoline per mile, the gas tax is increasingly unable to fund essential transportation infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Blumenauer has introduced HR 3636, the Update, Promote, and Develop America's Transportation Essentials (UPDATE) Act of 2013, which would raise the gas tax, index it to inflation, and also replace the gas tax by 2024 with a funding source for road transportation that is sustainable over the long term; and

WHEREAS, federal gas tax revenues are shared with states, which in turn provide funding to local projects; and

WHEREAS, Oregon receives more than \$500 million per year in federal gas tax revenues,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports HR 3636, the UPDATE Act of 2013, and other efforts to stabilize federal funding for transportation infrastructure.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**SUPPORT FOR THE REAUTHORIZATION OF THE FEDERAL
TRANSPORTATION LAW AND FOR CONTINUING THE
FEDERAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM WITHOUT
INTERRUPTION**

WHEREAS, public transportation is essential to keeping metropolitan economies healthy, productive and prosperous, and for providing people access to these economic opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a new report by the American Public Transportation Association demonstrates that investment in public transportation will lead to 50,700 jobs per \$1 billion invested, with 28,900 jobs per \$1 billion attributed to the productivity gains enjoyed by households and businesses, and provides an economic return of \$4 for every \$1 invested; and

WHEREAS, Congress must act to reauthorize the federal surface transportation law, MAP-21, prior to the end of the authorization on September 30, 2014, and

WHEREAS, revenues to sustain the Mass Transit Account of the federal Highway Trust Fund have not increased since 1993, leaving the fund with woefully insufficient balances and threatening the stability of the program; and

WHEREAS, a new proposal known as the Transportation Alternatives Program would directly provide more funding to MPO areas of 200,000 or more, thus providing critical resources to address urban mobility needs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to take prompt action to reauthorize the federal MAP-21 law and to continue federal public transportation programs without interruption; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that significantly increased funding levels be provided to public transportation in order to meet rising demand in its communities across America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a new Transportation Alternatives Program be enacted as part of the reauthorized MAP-21 law.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INCREASE BUS FUNDING AND RESTORE TRANSIT TAX BENEFITS

WHEREAS, in 2013, Americans took 10.7 billion trips on public transportation, boarding 35 million times each workday; and

WHEREAS, from 1995 through 2012, public transportation ridership increased by 34 percent; and

WHEREAS, 74 percent of public funding for public transit is spent creating and supporting hundreds of thousands of private sector jobs; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) estimates that every \$10 million in capital investment in public transportation yields \$30 million in increased business sales, and every \$10 million in operating investment yields \$32 million in increased business sales; and

WHEREAS, individuals who ride public transportation instead of driving can save more than \$10,000 annually according to APTA; and

WHEREAS, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) transportation reauthorization bill commendably increased overall funding levels for transit, but dedicated bus funding was reduced by 57 percent; and

WHEREAS, buses depreciate quickly and require frequent and substantial capital investment to maintain a state of good repair; and

WHEREAS, cuts to dedicated bus funding would mean more buses will operate past their useful service lives, experience significantly higher maintenance costs and result in less reliable service to riders; and

WHEREAS, California passed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, AB 32, requiring a 25 percent reduction in California's greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2025; and

WHEREAS, buses have proven to be an environmentally-friendly alternative to the single-occupancy vehicle, with many bus fleets utilizing compressed natural gas and other alternative forms of energy that emit less greenhouse gases than their diesel counterparts; and

WHEREAS, a single commuter switching their commute to public transportation can reduce a household's carbon emissions by 10 percent, or up to 30 percent if they also eliminate a second car. When compared to other household actions that limit carbon emissions, taking public transportation can be 10 times greater in reducing this harmful greenhouse gas, according to APTA; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) transportation bill established the Alternative Fuels Excise Tax Credit providing users of certain alternative fuels with a 50 cent per gallon equivalent tax credit against any alternative fuel tax liability; and

WHEREAS, many transit operators have converted their heavy-duty bus fleet to run on environmentally friendly alternative fuels; and

WHEREAS, the Alternative Fuel Excise Tax Credit provides much needed revenue for transit operators in a time of record-breaking ridership; and

WHEREAS, the Alternative Fuels Excise Tax Credit provision expired on January 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, prior to 2009, car commuters could claim up to \$240 a month in tax-free driving expenses, while transit users could claim only \$125; and

WHEREAS, the 2009 federal stimulus package temporarily equalized benefits for drivers and transit users; and

WHEREAS, the equal benefits expired on December 31, 2013, resulting in the transit benefit dropping to \$130 a month and the driving benefit increasing to \$250 a month; and

WHEREAS, equalizing tax benefits for both drivers and transit users lowers taxable income for employees and lowers payroll taxes for employers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to invest in all forms of public transportation by restoring bus and bus facility in the successor to MAP-21; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to permanently extend the Alternative Fuels Excise Tax Credit and equalize the commuter benefits for drivers and transit users.

Projected Cost: Unknown

MODIFICATION OF FEDERAL TRANSIT LAW SECTION 13(C)

WHEREAS, when federal funds are used to acquire, improve or operate a transit system, federal law requires arrangements to protect the rights of transit employees. These arrangements must be approved by the United States Department of Labor (USDOL) before the Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA) can release funds to grantees; and

WHEREAS, the requirement to protect transit employees is contained in Section 5333(b) of Title 49 U.S. Code and is often referred to as Section 13(c) of the Federal Transit Law; and

WHEREAS, Section 13(c) specifies that the arrangements must provide for the preservation of rights and benefits of transit employees under existing collective bargaining agreements, continuation of collective bargaining rights and protection of individual employees against a worsening of their positions in relation to their employment; and

WHEREAS, the provisions originated as a way to protect private transit employees when many public entities were replacing private transit operators in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, under Section 13(c), the USDOL can delay certification of transit funding without due process if a labor union submits an objection; and

WHEREAS, transit labor unions are currently able to file objections without consultation with transit agencies; and

WHEREAS, any objection delays critical operating and capital funding for transit agencies at a time where ridership of public transportation is at a 50-year high; and

WHEREAS, the Public Employee Pension Reform Act (PEPRA) became law in California in 2012 and legislatively enacted future changes to public employee pensions; and

WHEREAS, transit unions throughout California filed objections arguing that PEPRA violated the collective bargaining rights of transit workers as protected by 13(c), leading to the delay of \$1.6 billion dollars in federal funding and forcing transit agencies to adopt contingency plans to reduce 40 percent of service and employees; and

WHEREAS, a large reduction of transit service would result in millions of Americans who depend on public transportation being unable to access employment, health care and education opportunities; and

WHEREAS, a loss of significant federal funding put transit agencies at risk of having their bond ratings downgraded by Moody's Investors Service, making it prohibitively more expensive to expand and enhance service to meet an ever growing demand for public transportation, and

WHEREAS, an agreement was reached were the courts will ultimately decide whether PEPRA violated Section 13(c), yet there continues to be no protection for transit agencies who may be subject to future objections from transit unions without receiving proper due process,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to modify Section 13(c) to include proper adjudication of issues that includes due process for transit agencies and allows federal funding to be released while objections are mediated.

Projected Cost: Unknown

AMERICA FAST FORWARD TRANSPORTATION BONDS

WHEREAS, every \$1 billion of investment in the nation's transportation infrastructure supports 36,000 jobs, generates nearly \$500 million in federal, state, and local tax revenues, and confers significant benefits to cities, including supporting economic growth and goods movement; and improving quality of life by helping to alleviate traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Trust Fund has insufficient resources to maintain the current level of federal spending on surface transportation, much less help fund major new investment initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal and budget realities confronting both the Administration and Congress require new innovative, targeted federal financing tools for transportation infrastructure that minimize impacts on the federal budget and maximize new job creation; and

WHEREAS, Federal tax incentives can be a highly effective tool for encouraging private sector investment and, unlike direct federal spending, do not require growing the size of the federal government to administer them; and

WHEREAS, Congress has created over \$35 billion of qualified tax credit bonds with bipartisan support for a variety of sectors including: school construction, renewable energy, as well as forestry and energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds would support the creation of a 21st century national surface transportation system by creating a new category of qualified tax credit bonds to stimulate investment in highways, transit, bridges, freight, and intermodal facilities; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds would be a \$45 billion program over 10 years where the federal government pays all or most of the annual “interest” due on the bonds in the form of an annual non-refundable tax credit against the investor’s federal tax liability; and

WHEREAS, 35 percent of the volume would be allocated to all states based on their proportion of the nation’s population, and 65 percent would be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation among projects; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds should enable a project sponsor to undertake substantially greater investments within a defined revenue stream for debt service payments than other borrowing approaches, such as traditional tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward bonds would generate at least 500,000 private sector jobs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward bonds have received support from hundreds of mayors across the country and diverse groups including, the National League of Cities, US Chamber of Commerce, Building America's Future, National Association of Regional Councils, National Association of Counties and others,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to create a new category of qualified tax credit bonds for transportation to stimulate infrastructure investment, which would include:

- a. \$45 billion program over 10 years; and
- b. Federal government pays all or most of the annual “interest” due on the bonds in the form of an annual non-refundable tax credit against the investor’s federal tax liability; and
- c. 35 percent of the volume would be allocated to all states based on their proportion of the nation’s population, and 65 percent would be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation among projects; and
- d. Eligible projects would include: highways, bridges and tunnels; transit and intercity passenger bus or rail; and intermodal freight transfer facilities and private freight facilities conferring a public benefit.

Projected Cost: Approximately \$7.5 billion over 10 years

RECOGNIZING THE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL BENEFITS OF BICYCLING

WHEREAS, in recent years bicycling – bike commuting, recreational road riding, mountain biking, and casual short trip – has attained new popularity and visibility with approximately 50 million Americans taking to bikes on roads and trails, and in the last decade, according to the Census Bureau, bicycling to work increased 60 percent; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade, bicycling increased in 29 of the nation’s 50 biggest cities and declined in only one; and

WHEREAS, households in automobile-dependent communities spend 50 percent more – an extra \$3,000 on average – on transportation than households in communities with better bike and pedestrian facilities, and, one in twelve households does not own a car and a third of the population does not drive, and building bike and pedestrian networks that serve all ages and abilities provides safe and convenient access to transit and essential services for all; and

WHEREAS, according to a National Bureau of Economic Research study, if cycling participation increased enough to reduce obesity by about 3 percent, national medical expenditures could be reduced by \$6 billion and, according to the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, obese workers are more likely to report lost productive time than normal-weight workers, costing U. S. companies an estimated \$42.49 billion annually in lost time; and

WHEREAS, New York City found that protected bike lanes had a significant positive economic impact on local business after the construction of a protected bike lane on 9th Avenue where local business saw a 49 percent increase in retail sales at local businesses, compared to a 3 percent increase for Manhattan as a whole, and the Journal of the American Planning Association found that, in Minneapolis-St. Paul, for every 400 meters closer a home is to an off-street bicycle facility its value increased by \$510; and

WHEREAS, in a recent study of millennials in 10 cities, 82 percent said that opportunities to live and work without relying only on a car were important to them, and in a survey of recent transplants to Portland, Oregon, 62 percent said that the city’s bike-friendliness was a factor in their decision to move there; and

WHEREAS, according to the Outdoor Industry Association, \$81 billion is spent annually on bicycling, generating more than \$10 billion in local, state and federal taxes, and supporting 772,146 U.S. jobs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the significant economic and societal benefits of bicycling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress, as it reauthorizes surface transportation programs in MAP-21, to maximize funding and flexibility to local governments, through programs like Transportation Alternatives Program, TIGER and CMAQ for cost-effective investments in bicycling and pedestrian projects.

Projected Cost: Unknown

PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF ENERGY EFFICIENT SOLID-STATE (LED) LIGHTING ON OUR NATION'S HIGHWAYS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorsed the use of LED streetlight luminaires for lighting public streets and rights-of-way through the passage of its 2012 resolution on LED lighting; and

WHEREAS, the advancement of LED technologies or its equivalent offers opportunities for cities to improve public safety, save money, positively impact the environment and reduce landfill waste; and

WHEREAS, LED roadway lighting, which helps reduce waste, has a significantly longer lifespan than traditional sodium and fluorescent bulbs resulting in fewer bulbs in landfills; and

WHEREAS, the estimated 26.5 million streetlights in the United States consume as much electricity each year as 1.9 million households, and generate greenhouse gas emissions equal to that produced by 2.6 million cars; and

WHEREAS, LEDs are compatible with adaptive controls, which, when installed in roadway lighting, allow cities to dim and even switch off lights when there is little pedestrian or vehicle traffic; and

WHEREAS, LED roadway lighting will save significant tax payer dollars through energy savings and reduced operation and maintenance costs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to require solid state (LED) lighting or its equivalent as the new standard for lighting materials for new projects and for the replacement of existing failed units during routine maintenance as part of its reauthorization of the Highway Trust Fund Act.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ELIMINATION OF OVERLAPPING AND REDUNDANT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the United States of America, its States, and municipalities to develop 21st Century infrastructure in an expedient, cost effective, resourceful manner to create jobs and increase economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, overlapping and redundant environmental reviews often delay environmentally beneficial and important projects including public transit infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, time is of the essence in improving and expanding transportation infrastructure throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Public Transit Association, every \$1 invested in public transit results in \$4 in economic returns; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration estimates that 18,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion invested in highway infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the President and both Houses of Congress have proposed ambitious transportation investment programs and legislation to boost the nation's economic competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the cost of delay in implementing transportation projects can inhibit job creation as seen in one example cited by the Orange County (California) Transportation Authority in a 2011 report which detailed how a nine-year delay to a \$300 million construction project resulted in the loss of 3,050 jobs and \$92 million in GDP; and

WHEREAS, the independent, bipartisan National Surface Transportation Policy & Revenue Study Commission (Section 1909 Commission) cites that major highway projects take approximately 13 years from initiation to completion, while the average Federal Transit Administration New Starts transit project takes 10 + years to complete; and

WHEREAS, according to the Section 1909 Commission, significant delays to project delivery can increase the costs of projects by up to 7 percent annually; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, SAFETEA-LU recognized the importance of environmental streamlining and created a pilot programming allowing five states to assume all USDOT environmental responsibilities under NEPA; and

WHEREAS, Section 1322 of MAP-21 calls for a study by the Government Accountability Office to assess the opportunities and challenges to eliminate duplication of state and federal environmental reviews where state environmental laws are equal or more stringent than federal laws; and

WHEREAS, the intent of such policy is to maintain environmental protection while saving taxpayers valuable time and resources from unnecessary bureaucratic delay; and

WHEREAS, cities and regions with heavily traveled goods-movement corridors, ports, airports, and border crossings urgently require assistance to streamline project reviews to achieve national trade economic growth objectives and mitigate local community impacts; and

WHEREAS, some states have adopted environmental laws equal to or exceeding rigorous federal NEPA requirements that protect the environment, providing for public review, and mitigating impacts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to allow states the opportunity to substitute their environmental laws for federal environmental laws where state laws are substantially equivalent to or exceed federal environmental laws, for the purposes of eliminating costly and duplicative reviews; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends Congress for enacting project delivery acceleration provisions in MAP-21.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMTRAK

WHEREAS, Amtrak carried nearly 31.6 million passengers last year, the highest number in and year in its history, and its 10th annual ridership record in the last 11 years; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak plays an important role in the national transportation network by serving more than 500 destinations in 46 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak provides critical services to major metropolitan areas and for many rural Americans, Amtrak represents the only major mass transportation link to the rest of the country; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (NEC) is the busiest railroad in North America, and approximately 260 million intercity and commuter rail passengers rely on it each year; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak's 28 state-supported and 15 long-distance routes play critical roles in connecting America's small cities and rural towns, providing economic development opportunities, and carrying interstate trade and commerce; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail provides a more fuel-efficient transportation system thereby providing cleaner transportation alternatives and helping to reduce our dependence on foreign oil; and

WHEREAS, the United States government has significantly undercapitalized the national Amtrak system for decades and failed to provide passenger rail with a dedicated secure source of funding like other modes enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the failure to properly invest in passenger rail infrastructure has created pressing infrastructure needs, which, if left unchecked, will lead to higher costs and worse service for Amtrak, passengers, and freight carriers; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments see the national Amtrak system as an essential way to assure future mobility for their regions by investing in their stations and the routes that serve their communities but need the federal government to partner with them in making the rail investment (as the federal government does for highway, air and transit investments),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress and the Administration to invest in Amtrak by enacting a long-term, sustainable federal funding mechanism to provide Amtrak with a fair and consistent source of capital and operating support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration and Congress to provide the predictable and robust funding needed for Amtrak to not only sustain but also improve our national intercity passenger rail system and infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the recommendation of The United States Conference of Mayors to the Administration and Congress that the federal government fully fund the operating and capital needs of the long-distance trains that ensure a national network.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORT SPEED GOVERNORS FOR THE HEAVIEST COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

WHEREAS, 4,000 Motorists die and over 100,000 are injured annually in Heavy Commercial Vehicle (“HCV”) involved crashes; and

WHEREAS, 1,000 HCV crashes occur daily in the U.S., with each crash resulting in a multi-hour economic paralysis event; and

WHEREAS, the Speed Governor technology has been standard equipment on HCV’s since 1995; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the world’s only leading country without an HCV top speed governor use requirement; and

WHEREAS, following the implementation of their Speed Governor Rules, the United Kingdom and Australia saw reductions of over 25 percent in overall HCV-involved crashes; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation’s (“USDOT”) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration’s 2012 study concluded that trucks with speed governors set are 50 percent less likely to be in highway collisions compared to trucks without speed governors set; and

WHEREAS, trucking companies that currently use speed governors report increased profits due to less fuel consumption, maintenance and liability costs; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 Road Safe America, in consort with the American Trucking Association and others, petitioned the USDOT for a rule requiring set speed governors on all HCV’s; and

WHEREAS, all major safety advocates support requiring the setting of the speed governors at a reasonable top speed; and

WHEREAS, to date there has been no final regulatory determination made by USDOT,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the issuance of a USDOT rule requiring HCV’s from model year 1995 forward to employ Speed Governors at a reasonable top speed.

Projected Cost: Unknown.

SUPPORT FOR INCREASED INVESTMENT IN GOODS MOVEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, global goods export volumes reached \$18.3 trillion in 2012, an increase of over 400 percent since 1990 and global goods trade volumes have set new records every year for nearly three decades; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. transportation system moves more than 52 million tons of goods, worth nearly \$46 billion, each day, the equivalent of 40 tons of freight per person per year; and

WHEREAS, freight tonnage is expected to increase by 62 percent by the year 2040, requiring additional capacity across virtually every mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, over 44 million American jobs are directly dependent on freight transportation; and

WHEREAS, every metropolitan area is now part of the global economy making investment in goods movement infrastructure essential for the United States to remain economically competitive; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration included \$10 billion over four years for a multi-modal freight program as part of its transportation reauthorization proposal known as the GROW AMERICA Act; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan leaders of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works have also recognized the important role of freight by providing for increased freight investment as part of their transportation reauthorization proposal, beginning with \$400 million in FY 2016 and trending upward to \$2 billion in FY 2020; and

WHEREAS, the findings and recommendations released in late 2013 by the bipartisan House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Panel on 21st Century Freight call for "robust public investment" for all transportation modes related to freight and urged the development of a "comprehensive national freight policy" as well as the designation of a "national, multimodal freight network",

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors commends the federal efforts to boost the freight sector and urges Congress to pass a transportation reauthorization bill that increases investment in goods movement infrastructure by dedicating federal funding for a multimodal national freight system; prioritizes funding for key metro corridors and gateways; allows federal funds to be passed through to metros that have adopted comprehensive metropolitan freight plans; and provides funding for a national freight infrastructure grant program (modeled after the Projects of National and Regional Significance and TIGER programs), open to metros and port authorities, allocated on a competitive basis using

performance-based project selection criteria to prioritize projects that improve system performance (e.g., efficiency, safety, and resilience) and reduce environmental impacts, especially through use of advanced technologies.

Projected Cost: Unknown

PROTECTING THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ECONOMIC WELL-BEING OF LOCAL CITIZENS FROM THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF INCREASED CRUDE OIL RAIL TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH CITIES

WHEREAS, Cities throughout the United States are committed to the protection of their citizens, as well as the protection of natural resources on which Cities depend such as clean drinking water; and

WHEREAS, crude oil shipments by rail have increased by over 400 percent since 2005; and both domestic crude production and shipment of crude by rail is projected to continue to increase in coming years with nearly 1 million barrels of oil passing through our cities and communities on rail cars every day; and

WHEREAS, Cities are concerned about the potential impacts of crude oil rail transport on public safety and economic stability from a possible derailment; and

WHEREAS, more crude oil was spilled in American rail incidents in 2013 than in the previous 4 decades combined and recent derailments and explosions have devastated communities in Virginia, North Dakota, Alabama, Illinois and Canada, calling national attention to safety and emergency preparedness issues; and

WHEREAS, the National Transportation Safety Board and the U.S. Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration have cautioned that crude oil produced in North Dakota, “Baaken crude,” may be more flammable and prone to explosions than traditional heavy crude oil; and

WHEREAS, shippers are required to use nine hazard classes as a guide to properly classify hazardous materials to ensure that the material is placed in the proper package and that the risk is accurately communicated to emergency responders, but in February, the Department of Transportation found that 11 of 18 cargo tanks of crude oil en route to rail loading facilities were misclassified as less dangerous than they actually are; and

WHEREAS, The National Transportation Safety Board first identified the DOT 111A rail car on its “Most Wanted List” in 1991, and The Department of Transportation and industry stakeholders agree that current tank car standards are not adequate to handle the types of materials being shipped; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no coordinated federal funding program for investments in our national freight infrastructure, including the fail freight network, and investments in this infrastructure are critical to economic growth, efficient goods movement and, most importantly, safety; and

WHEREAS, while rail shipments of hazardous materials have grown by 400 percent, inspection and enforcement budgets have tightened, leaving DOT with less resources to inspect a growing number of sites and rail cars; and

WHEREAS, on July 6, 2013, a train carrying crude oil derailed in **Lac-Mégantic**, Quebec killing 42 people, destroying 30 buildings, and requiring the evacuation of over 2000 people; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2013, a train carrying crude oil derailed in Aliceville, Alabama, polluting a swamp and setting trees on fire; and

WHEREAS, on December 30, 2013, a train carrying crude oil derailed in Casselton, North Dakota causing violent explosions and a hazardous plume of smoke; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2014, a train carrying 2.9 million gallons of crude oil derailed in downtown Lynchburg, Virginia spilling oil into the James River and forcing hundreds to evacuate and highlighting the rail company's inadequate insurance coverage for cleanup and restoration costs; and

WHEREAS, emergency responders have indicated that they need better data about hazardous materials shipments as well as more resources for training and equipment to respond to potential incidents; and

WHEREAS, railroad companies do offer training for local first responders to prepare them for the event of rail accidents, including those accidents involving crude oil and other flammable liquids; and

WHEREAS, on January 16, 2014, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Foxx has issued a "Call to Action," bringing together top executives of rail companies, associations, shippers and other stakeholders to discuss ways that rail accidents involving crude oil and other flammable liquids can be prevented and mitigated; and,

WHEREAS, on May 7, 2014, Secretary Foxx announced an emergency order requiring railroad companies to inform state emergency management officials when they plan to move large volumes – more than 1 million gallons - of Bakken crude oil through a state.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urge Congress, the Administration, and private industry, including rail roads and energy producers to take a comprehensive approach to keeping our communities safe through taking steps that prevent rail accidents from occurring, mitigate the risks of wide-spread damage and better prepare communities for responding to incidents, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress, the Administration and industry to ensure Bakken crude is appropriately classified according to hazardous material standards so that it is accurately identified and shipped with the appropriate level of caution, so that local governments, citizens, and first responders can better understand and plan for the risks associated with the specific type of fuel being transported through, or to, their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the PHMSA and the Federal Rail Administration (FRA) work together with the Association of American Railroads and other stakeholders and experts to quickly implement new safety standards for oil train cars that provide both safety to the public and environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges Congress and industry to make investments in infrastructure improvements and safety technology that can help prevent derailments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the PHMSA recognize as part of their current rulemaking process on the safety standards of the DOT 111A tank cars that the National Surface Transportation Board first identified this type of rail car on its “Most Wanted List” in 1991 saying it is “more susceptible to damage” than other rail car, and therefore “pose[s] a substantial danger to life, property, and the environment;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in addition to strengthening safety standards and infrastructure, additional resources for rail inspectors and enforcement are needed to ensure everyone is playing by the rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that FRA and PHMSA should take into consideration the recommendations of the NTSB to require railroads to evaluate the safety and security risks of crude oil train routes and select routes that avoid populous and other sensitive areas, require railroads to develop comprehensive emergency response plans for worst-case releases resulting from accidents, and require shippers to sufficiently test and properly classify hazardous materials such as crude oil prior to shipment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges the US Department of Transportation go further than its May 7, 2014 emergency order and require that railroads provide local first responders with access to adequate information about all oil being transported through their communities, in addition to oil originating in the Bakken region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our first responders need special training, equipment and real-time data to prepare for containing hazardous material spills and explosions to keep more people safe and reduce potential contamination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PHMSA require railroad companies to provide local fire departments along rail lines with adequate supplies of the appropriate equipment and material to fully respond to an incident involving train cars carrying crude oil; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that producers and shippers should carry adequate insurance to cover potential accidents related to crude oil shipment by rail.

CONSOLIDATION

WHEREAS, over the last several years, several major airlines have consolidated, with American, United, Delta, and Southwest now controlling more than 82 percent of domestic airline seats; and

WHEREAS, as airlines have consolidated, they have focused more on flying routes that generate the best financial returns from larger cities and those with hub airports, to the detriment of medium, small, and nonhub airports; and

WHEREAS, according to a recent analysis from the GAO, flights at medium sized airports have declined by 24 percent, flights at small airports have declined by 20 percent, and flights at nonhub airports have declined by 18 percent, while flights at large airports have declined by only 9 percent; and

WHEREAS, this decline in air traffic for medium and smaller airports has a significant impact on the local economy, transportation, and mobility,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation to analyze and report on the impact of airline consolidation on the transportation and economic development prospects of medium sized and smaller communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors requests that Congress and the Administration propose recommendations for ensuring that medium sized and smaller communities do not suffer from the impacts of airline consolidation.

Projected Cost: Unknown.

CELEBRATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF DALLAS-FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

WHEREAS, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) opened 40 years ago; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors and other leaders of the Cities of Dallas and Fort Worth had the foresight and determination to overcome numerous differences and obstacles to build DFW; and

WHEREAS, DFW serves as a model of regional cooperation and as a testament to the impact of mayoral leadership; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize this milestone anniversary and example of regional cooperation as the nation's mayors gather in Dallas for the 82nd Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, DFW has grown into a 'global super hub' that offers direct, non-stop passenger flights to 203 destinations, including 56 international destinations, on 24 carriers; and

WHEREAS, DFW is one of only 7 airports in the world and the only airport in the nation with direct, non-stop passenger flights to more than 200 destinations; and

WHEREAS, the operations of DFW's 16 cargo carriers contribute \$16.7 billion to the North Central Texas economy; and

WHEREAS, overall, DFW contributes \$31.6 billion annually to the North Central Texas economy; and

WHEREAS, 60,000 people report to work at DFW and DFW directly and indirectly supports another 83,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes that international trade and tourism are important to city and metropolitan economies and DFW is a major port of entry for millions of international visitors each year, many of whom travel on to other U.S. cities and metropolitan areas; and

WHEREAS, DFW continues to grow and has embarked on a \$2.3 billion Terminal Renewal Improvement Program; and

WHEREAS, building on its history of regional cooperation, DFW has been working with the City of Dallas, the City of Fort Worth, other cities in the region, Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART), the Fort Worth Transportation Authority (The T) and the North Central Texas Council of Governments to improve intermodal connections; and

WHEREAS, beginning in August, DART's Orange Line light rail line will provide service to Terminal A of DFW, providing DFW passengers and employees with a one-seat ride to Las Colinas (Irving), the Dallas Medical District, Downtown Dallas and Downtown Plano and convenient connections to countless other destinations served by DART's four light rail lines; and

WHEREAS, the rail station at Terminal A will eventually become a regional intermodal hub, providing regional rail service to Downtown Fort Worth on the Tarrant Regional Express,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors congratulates Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, the City of Dallas and the City of Fort Worth on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

Projected Cost: Unknown

PRESERVING A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET

WHEREAS, Since its inception, the Internet has existed based on principles of freedom and openness, core values that have made it the most powerful communication medium ever known; and

WHEREAS, The FCC is currently debating how to enshrine these Open Internet Principles into 21st century regulation; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. in 2010 determined that the long-observed Open Internet Principles of nondiscrimination, nonblocking, and transparency, described below, should not be declared in an FCC Policy Statement, but instead should be enshrined in a formal rulemaking seeking to reinstate those principles; and

WHEREAS, the FCC issued its Open Internet Order, reinstating these rules for preserving a free and open internet, on December 23, 2010, formalizing the three basic protections: transparency, no blocking of lawful content and no unreasonable discrimination of network traffic; and these rules were made effective November 20, 2011; and

WHEREAS, these rules enshrine the values of what is commonly referred to as net neutrality; and

WHEREAS, the first principle of the Open Internet Order states that fixed and mobile broadband providers must publicly disclose accurate information regarding network management practices, performance characteristics, and commercial terms of their broadband services; and

WHEREAS, the second principle states that fixed broadband providers may not block lawful content, applications, services, or non-harmful devices; mobile broadband providers may not block lawful websites, or block applications that compete with their voice or video telephony services; and

WHEREAS, the third principle states that unreasonable discrimination shall not be permitted, that fixed broadband providers may not unreasonably discriminate in transmitting lawful network traffic; and

WHEREAS, these principles, applied with the complementary principle of reasonable network management, guarantee that the freedom and openness that previously enabled the internet to flourish as an engine for creativity and commerce under the protection of the original policy statement will continue, providing greater certainty and predictability to citizens, consumers, innovators, investors, and broadband providers, while retaining the flexibility providers need to effectively manage their networks; and

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the internet, broadband internet access services have continued to invest in a single infrastructure which has increased average speeds for all users across our nation, without resorting to the practice of prioritization for users who can afford to pay the most; and

WHEREAS, online companies, or edge providers, have also invested in new innovative products and services that have driven economic growth and consumer demand for improved internet services and faster speeds from broadband internet access providers; and

WHEREAS, the dual investment of broadband Internet access service providers and edge providers has fostered a virtuous cycle of investment and innovation online; and

WHEREAS, two key rules of the three rules comprising the Open Internet Order, one pertaining to no blocking and another pertaining to no unreasonable discrimination, were again vacated on January 14, 2014 by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C. in the Verizon Communications Inc. v. Federal Communications Commission (2014), ruling that the FCC has no authority to enforce these rules; and

WHEREAS, the FCC on May 15, 2014, voted 3-2 to open the process of public comment on their proposed net neutrality rules that could in some circumstances allow paid prioritization of internet traffic based on a commercially reasonable standard; and

WHEREAS, paid prioritization under a commercially reasonable standard allows paid prioritization that has heretofore been understood to be unjust and unreasonable; and

WHEREAS, unreasonable paid prioritization is antithetical to a neutral Internet, and nondiscrimination is an inherent and indivisible characteristic of net neutrality; and

WHEREAS, all data on the Internet should be treated equally, not discriminating or charging differentially by user, content, site, platform, application, type of attached equipment, and modes of communication; and

WHEREAS, innovation relies on a free and open Internet that does not allow individual arrangements for priority treatment over broadband Internet access service; and

WHEREAS, preventing access to any lawful websites, slowing speeds for services, or redirecting users from one website to a competing website creates asymmetrical access which is antithetical to an Open Internet; and

WHEREAS, startups are the engine of an innovation economy, yet may not have the cash flow to pay for paid prioritization, and will therefore be unable to compete with large companies to deliver content to customers, impeding startup growth, thus limiting economic development and the creation of jobs; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports a free and open internet as outlined in the FCC's original Open Internet Order; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports comprehensive nondiscrimination as a key principle for any FCC rulemaking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports securing a commitment to transparency and the free flow of information over the internet, including no blocking of lawful websites and no unreasonable discrimination of lawful network traffic; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls on the White House to offer their support of these principles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to offer their support of these principles and if necessary use their lawmaking power to enshrine access to a free and open Internet and give the FCC a clear mandate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors recommends that the FCC preempt state barriers to municipal broadband service as a significant limitation to competition in the provision of Internet access.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO
DETERMINE THE BEST USE OF PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL AND
GOVERNMENT (PEG) SUPPORT FOR PEG PURPOSES**

WHEREAS, there are more than 1,500 Public Educational and Government (PEG) access centers in the United States that manage upwards of 5,000 cable television public, educational, and governmental (PEG) channels that each week carry 20,000 hours of original programming from local governments, schools, health and jobs organizations, social services agencies, religious groups, and local residents; and

WHEREAS, PEG channels and production centers have become the primary vehicle for preserving localism by providing vital local government information, educational content, civic and cultural information and religious and political expression to residents in local communities across America; and

WHEREAS, the right of local communities to require cable operators to set aside channel capacity for PEG use and to provide adequate facilities or financial support for those channels is provided in the Cable Communications Policy Act; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 PEG access centers and 100s of PEG channels have been lost since 2005, and many more may close as provisions in state and federal laws have eliminated or restrict how PEG funding may be used; and

WHEREAS, it is important to preserve PEG channels and funding for PEG operations to ensure that these channels continue to be available to the entire community to serve residents and to preserve jobs at the local level; and

WHEREAS, Section 542 of Title 47 of the United States Code limits PEG funding to capital expenditures and bars the use of such support to operation unless agreed to by the operators,

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, by The U.S. Conference of Mayors that the United States Congress amend Section 542 of Title 47 of the United States Code to allow local communities to determine the best use of PEG support for PEG purposes.

Projected Cost: None

MISCELLANEOUS

Resolution of Thanks to Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings Host Mayor of The 82nd Annual Meeting The United States Conference of Mayors

WHEREAS, Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings has hosted The 82nd Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Rawlings' planning, dedication, and vision have made this 82nd Annual Meeting a truly Texas-sized success; and

WHEREAS, mayors and all other participants have learned first-hand about Dallas' city planning, revitalization, public-private partnerships, arts and culture, architecture, history, and a host of other aspects of the Dallas metroplex; and,

WHEREAS, mayors and other participants have seen first-hand:

- The state-of-the-art AT&T Stadium, home of the Dallas Cowboys, where we met Cowboy greats, saw the Dallas Cowboys Cheerleaders perform, and danced the night away to the music of Asleep at the Wheel and award-winning singer LeAnn Rimes;
- The newly-opened Perot Museum of Nature and Science;
- Dallas' new outdoor Klyde Warren Park, which rang with the music of four-time Grammy-award winning Lyle Lovett and his band as well as the talent of dynamic blues artist Francine Reed;
- The "Arts District," which boasts the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Hall, the AT&T Performing Arts Center, the Winspear Opera House, and the Dallas City Performance Hall;
- Annette Strauss Artist Square, where award-winning Bonnie Raitt energized us with her inimitable voice; and
- The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, one of the most beautiful gardens in the nation, where we enjoyed the Texas-Louisiana music of Marcia Ball; and

WHEREAS, host city workshops showcased the city’s revitalization through transit-oriented development; Dallas’ strategy of leveraging resources through public and private partnerships; revitalizing existing neighborhoods while unlocking development opportunities in the heart of an urban center—Trinity River Corridor Project; and the art and architecture of Dallas’ landmarks and iconic buildings,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors thanks Mayor Rawlings for making the 82nd Annual Conference an enjoyable and unforgettable experience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as we have seen, Dallas is “**A SMART-CONNECTED CITY**,” where “**BIG SMART THINGS HAPPEN** – because of **BIG** personalities, **BIG** hearts, **BIG** passion, and because Dallas is **BIGGER** than ever!” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors extends its deepest appreciation to Mayor Rawlings, city staff, volunteers, and all the people of this great city for showing us Dallas’ **BIG Achievements and BIG Heart!**