

4.00 Introduction

The National League of Cities (NLC) believes that the cornerstone of the federal government's comprehensive human development strategy should be the self-sufficiency of every individual. Through policy recommendations and legislative action, the federal government should:

- Establish a coordinated system of social services;
- Establish and implement a national policy on children and youth;
- Fully fund federally-mandated programs;
- Fund services designed to prevent unwed teenage pregnancy and eliminate poverty;
- Promote full employment;
- Promote equal opportunity efforts in education, employment, and social services;
- Provide a floor of financial support for seniors and persons with disabilities through Social Security;
- Provide assistance to individuals with disabilities;
- Ensure that all Americans have access to adequate physical and mental health care;
- Establish a federal block grant program to enhance our public health system;
- Implement comprehensive immigration reform; and Support efforts to ensure that cultural resources are accessible to all citizens.

4.01 Social Services

NLC believes that the federal government should give special emphasis to social service funds for the nation's most vulnerable populations. Within this framework, the federal government should allow state and local governments to determine the types of services most appropriate to meet each

community's needs. The federal government should:

- Increase funding for the Social Services Block Grant and other federal block grants that help local communities provide social services;
- Provide coordination, flexibility, and oversight, in full partnership with local officials;
- Ensure that all community-based organizations, including faith-based, that receive federal funds comply with all legal and constitutional civil rights requirements; and
- Focus on assisting senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, children, immigrants and refugees, and homeless individuals.

A. Funding

The federal government should provide sufficient and flexible federal funding to local communities for quality and responsive human services programs. This includes adequate funding of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), which helps serve many of the needs of special populations, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which was designed to reduce poverty.

B. Coordination

The federal government should create a coordinated system of administration and delivery of human services to avoid fragmenting services at the local level where public and private services are delivered. The federal government should include local officials in the planning, monitoring, evaluating, and decision-making on federal policies and programs. Federal regulations governing social services should be sufficiently flexible so that local government can ensure that programs meet local needs.

C. Program Evaluation

Social services programs should be evaluated on the basis of well-defined performance standards that relate to program administration and participant development, as well as on the basis of the numbers served or placed in programs.

D. Faith-Based Organizations

NLC believes that any faith-based organization or system of assistance and service delivery should be required to maintain critical safe guards to ensure the separation of church and state and adhere to all civil rights statutes and constitutional protections when hiring employees and providing services to clients. In addition, faith-based organizations should be required to meet the same accountability standards as any other service provider.

E. Special Populations

NLC supports federal efforts to focus funding and program services on special populations including:

- Senior Citizens (*see also HD Section 4.06, Seniors and Social Security*);
- Individuals with Disabilities (*see also HD Section 4.07, Individuals with Disabilities*);
- Children (*see also HD Section 4.02, Children and Learning*);
- Immigrants and Refugees (*see also HD Section 4.09, Immigration and Refugees*); and
- Homeless Individuals (*NLC Resolution #2016-13*).

4.02 Children and Learning

Cities and their elected leaders play a critical role in education. While local elected officials rarely control their local education agencies, local elected officials have a huge state in educational outcomes and the impact those outcomes have on the local economy and workforce. In addition, local elected

officials have significant influence and can mobilize important resources to the benefit of local school systems.

NLC supports all efforts to create effective and comprehensive early childhood development programs and high quality education systems that ultimately provide individuals with the skills needed to secure meaningful employment and lifetime skills.

NLC believes that the federal government, through funding and program support, should work the states and local communities to improve education in the United States. To ensure school readiness for all students, the federal government should ensure that local communities have sufficient resources to support families, and children and youth from ages zero to 18 years.

Working with local leaders and schools, the federal government should:

- Establish and implement a national policy on children and youth, which is coordinated, holistic, and focused on prevention;
- Provide a comprehensive array of services that foster appropriate early childhood development;
- Ensure that high-quality, safe, and affordable child care is available to all children who need it;
- Adequately fund Head Start and Early Head Start;
- Fully fund all federally-mandated education acts; and
- Provide resources to local communities to help individual students meet performance standards. and
- Provide resources for pilot programs to more effectively involve parents, strengthen families, and bring communities into our schools.

A. Early Childhood Development

NLC supports early childhood development programs that have the greatest potential for enriching a young child's life in the long term. Such programs should include:

- Health and nutrition for proper development;
- Parent training and support, including flexible child care arrangements; and
- Appropriate early learning experiences.

To achieve this, NLC urges the federal government to provide increased funding and programmatic flexibility, technical assistance and policies that support collaboration and participation across the federal, state and local levels so that local governments are able to provide for early childhood education for all children. This funding should be used for pre- and post-natal health and social services and nutritional assistance so that children ages zero to six develop properly, and parenting skills programs for mothers, fathers, and other caregivers.

NLC urges the federal government to provide direct funding to cities for parenting programs in their communities.

Furthermore, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Increase funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant to ensure that all families can find accessible and affordable child care;
- Ensure that the child care services are comprehensive, incorporating preventive and protective services for child abuse and neglect, early and periodic health screenings, nutritional programs, educational enrichment, and appropriate interventions for children with special needs;
- Create minimum federal standards for high-quality, safe and affordable child care;

- Provide supplemental funds to states to improve the quality of their child care providers;
- Support research on best practices and effective service delivery; and Provide incentives such as training grants, capital improvement funds, liability protection, etc. to encourage home care providers to come into compliance with existing or new regulations.
- NLC also recommends that the federal government;
- Provide tax incentives to businesses to provide child care facilities at worksites and to subsidize the child care costs of their employees;
- Encourage public-private partnerships through matching funds and financial incentives;
- Educate employers on the economic benefits of providing child care; and
- Urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to view child care as a legitimate business and make available low-interest loans to those interested in starting day care services.

Further, NLC urges the federal government to strengthen child care and early learning systems by bridging gaps between child care and early learning providers and supporting policies within Head Start that foster collaboration with early education programs and child care.

B. Early Childhood Learning

NLC strongly supports quality, early childhood learning programs for all children, including federally-subsidized, quality, early childhood learning programs for at-risk and low-income children. NLC urges the federal government to:

- Increase funds for the expansion of services provided by early childhood programs that have proven to be cost effective;

- Provide incentives to the private sector to become more involved in early childhood and early learning activities;
- Provide support for development and evaluation of education approaches for pre-school children; and
- Preserve the federal-to-local Head Start funding structure that empowers local collaboration and decision-making.

C. School-Age Children

NLC support comprehensive programs to raise student achievement. NLC supports Title I of the ESEA, which enables schools serving disadvantaged children to meet their unique educational needs. NLA also supports federal efforts around after-school, summer and year round youth employment, and vocational programs that are linked to staying in school.

The federal government should increase funding for programs that support students who have dropped-out of school so they can return to school easily or move into the employment sector effectively. In addition, for those students who are not actively pursuing education beyond high school, NLC supports federal investments in research and programs designed to assist these students, including vocational programs that help students transition from school to work.

In addition, for students who are not actively pursuing education beyond high school, NLC supports continued federal investment in research and local programs, including vocational programs that help students to transition from school to work.

NLC also supports immigrant integration through education by teaching all students to speak, read and write in English. Therefore, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Provide sufficient funding to assist local communities help Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and English Language Learners (ELL) students through

bilingual teachers, appropriate lessons, and other needed services;

- Continue to implement flexible policies based on different communities' needs; and
- Continue to allow states to give some school districts time-limited waivers regarding assessments of students who are new immigrants.

D. Family and Community Education Programs

NLC supports federal initiatives that encourage and reinforce family involvement in school programs, such as the Communities in Schools program, which makes comprehensive human services like healthcare, family literacy, mentoring, and family counseling programs available at neighborhood schools.

E. Safe Schools

NLC also believes that widespread bullying and harassment—including bullying based on sexual orientation or gender identity—result in poor grades, lower academic achievement, high rates of absenteeism, and a lack of safety within schools, that lead to poor individual and school scores, higher dropout rates, and student suicides. Therefore, NLC urges Congress and the Administration to pass and sign into law legislation that would address the problem of bullying and harassment in America's schools. The legislation should require that local school districts and their schools to:

- Adopt comprehensive and effective student conduct policies that include clear prohibitions regarding all bullying and harassment, including bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Create effective prevention strategies and professional development programs designed to help school personnel

meaningfully address issues associated with bullying and harassment; and

- Implement procedures to maintain and report data regarding incidents of bullying and harassment in order to inform the development of effective federal, state, and local policies that address these issues.

F. Post-Secondary Education

In order to adequately prepare young people to enter the world-of-work, it may be necessary for some to obtain a post-secondary school degree. To ensure a smooth transition from high school to post-secondary school, NLC supports those college preparation programs, authorized by the Higher Education Act, that help to bridge the transition from high school to college. For example, GEAR UP, Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Educational Opportunity Centers are all good examples of federal programs that are exclusively targeted at providing college awareness for underserved middle- and high school students. These programs provide critical information about college admissions and student financial aid to disadvantaged students, and their funding should be increased.

G. Public Libraries

Finally, NLC believes that public libraries are educational institutions that provide critical education services to the community. Therefore, NLC urges the federal government to designate public libraries as educational institutions able to qualify for broader sources of funding.

4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support

NLC believes that all levels of government should work to eliminate poverty, ensure a basic quality of life for all Americans, and promote self-sufficiency. To achieve this,

the federal government should provide comprehensive and coordinated services to families in need that take into account regional and local differences. In addition, all programs should be administered in an effective and cost efficient manner that incorporates the capacities of all levels of government.

A. Poverty Reduction

NLC supports federal efforts to encourage employment that reduces dependence on welfare. However, NLC urges Congress to review and improve the 1996 welfare reform law by:

- Changing the central focus of TANF from welfare caseload reduction to poverty reduction;
- Eliminating unfunded mandates;
- Eliminating arbitrary time limits for necessary work supports, such as transportation, child care, and housing supplements;
- Including in the definition of work participation in support services, work study, and the pursuit of educational attainment;
- Providing incentives for strong workable contingency plans that would be implemented during recessions; and
- Allowing legal immigrants to receive welfare benefits.

B. Education and Skills Development

NLC urges Congress to permit individuals to use their welfare grants for education and skills training. Allowable activities should include basic and remedial education, with an emphasis on literacy; vocational, technical, and higher education; English language training; work experience; job search and placement assistance; affordable day care; health insurance; substance abuse treatment; entrepreneurial opportunities; and transportation.

The federal government should provide adequate funding to help individuals make the transition from welfare to work by:

- Meeting the diverse and often complex needs of families and children;
- Providing families and children with choices of avenues to self-sufficiency; and
- Recognizing that some families have multiple barriers to employment and providing realistic time frames based on assessments.

Therefore NLC urges Congress to:

- Facilitate better coordination of services offered under existing federally supported financial aid programs for the disadvantaged with the educational needs of citizens qualifying for TANF;
- Target low-income workers for job training and transitional jobs, if appropriate; and
- Recognize that some individuals who suffer from physical disabilities, health limitations, or mental health disorders may not be able to work under any circumstance and should receive sufficient financial support to maintain an adequate standard of living.

As part of the federal government's efforts to reduce poverty and lower welfare caseloads, the federal government should require states to use whatever mechanisms that are legal and necessary, including Social Security numbers and state tax records, to track people leaving welfare to determine how many have jobs paying enough to sustain self-sufficiency.

The federal government must increase the EITC to relieve more low-income workers of tax obligations and/or to provide larger refunds to those that qualify. The federal government should increase the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to relieve more

low-income workers of tax obligations and provide larger refunds to those who qualify. In addition, the federal government should support working families by increasing the minimum wage.

C. Supportive Services

The federal government should provide sufficient funding so that essential supportive services can be continued for a period of time after job placement and until wages increase to a family sustaining level.

D. Homelessness

NLC believes that the rate of homelessness in America reflects fundamental deficiencies in our ability to meet basic human needs. To respond to this, NLC calls upon the federal government to fund and support a seamless, comprehensive system of services designed to prevent homelessness and to provide housing to those individuals and families who are homeless. When necessary, the federal government should fund a comprehensive array of services for homeless individuals and families in need of emergency or transitional services. In particular, the federal government should:

- Expand the emergency and transitional food and shelter programs;
- Expand programs that provide emergency health services;
- Fund social services, especially outreach and counseling services;
- Provide transportation, life skills, education, job training, career counseling, and job placement services;
- Improve access to federal entitlement programs; and
- Develop a unique set of services and programs to aid and assist homeless veterans.

E. Change the Federal Poverty Level

NLC calls upon the federal government to create new federal poverty guidelines that accurately reflect the regional costs of goods and services and the spending needs of individuals and families. The current poverty guidelines were created in the early nineteen-sixties, are outdated, and too low, and do not accurately account for all Americans living in actual poverty.

4.04 Employment

NLC believes that the federal government should maintain an economic environment that promotes job creation and job access. To support America's workers and employers, the federal government should:

- Create meaningful jobs in areas of high unemployment;
- Make work pay by setting the minimum wage and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) at levels that in combination allow families to support themselves above the poverty level; and
- Protect the financial integrity of the Unemployment Insurance program and maintain the Employment Service, which is responsible for distributing unemployment checks and providing job placement services.

A. Workforce Development

The federal government should provide resources for a range of services, including basic educational and job skills training for welfare recipients, structurally unemployed individuals, dislocated workers, and at-risk youth, and job placement services for all Americans to ensure that all Americans have access to higher paying and higher skills jobs. To ensure that these goals and objectives are met, Congress should fully fund workforce development programs like the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and should:

- Allow cities and towns working individually or together to utilize funds in ways that reflect the local workforce, available jobs, and the needs of the business community;
- Ensure that a portion of the funds are targeted to those most in need: persons living in poverty, those who are structurally unemployed and are not likely to return to their previous jobs, ex-offenders, and disconnected youth who are at-risk of long-term poverty;
- Establish workforce development areas that are based on regional economies rather than arbitrary measures such as population or political boundaries;
- Prohibit states from diverting all federal funds toward those who are already employed or job ready rather than those in greatest need;
- Ensure that local elected officials play a significant role in the planning, development, and implementation of regionally-based workforce development programs;
- Encourage collaboration between governments, education agencies including community colleges, organized labor, and the private sector to provide job skills training that meets the needs of workers and employers alike;
- Establish a permanent summer jobs program for young people ages 14 through 24 that is designed to provide economically disadvantaged and disconnected youth with paid jobs that provide measurable world-of-work training and job skills development;
- Provide two-year base funding so that programs may provide long-term training and services across program years; and
- Allow local governments and workforce development programs to use a variety of training approaches including, but not limited to: individual training accounts,

classroom training, and on-the-job training.

When the federal government closes military bases or major federal facilities, the federal government should provide direct assistance to ensure that individuals receive the retraining and job placement assistance they need.

B. Job Creation

To reduce poverty, the federal government should provide resources to help local communities address the shortage of living wage jobs.

In addition, the federal government should assist in areas of high unemployment to promote job creation, including tax credits and other incentives to business and industry to hire disadvantaged youth and other hard to employ populations.

NLC also supports transitional jobs, or public sector jobs that are designed to provide individuals with temporary employment that will lead to full-time permanent employment after a period of classroom, on-the-job, and other types of training consistent with permanent, full-time employment. The President and Congress should establish a national infrastructure program with the goal of stimulating job growth, retraining the workforce, and boosting local economies.

C. Job Elimination

When employers downsize, relocate or close businesses they should be required to give advance notice to employees and the local government in which the business resides so that appropriate preparations may be made to meet the needs of the dislocated workers.

Therefore, NLC supports federal laws that require public and private sector employers to:

- Provide advance notice of relocations, reductions in workforce or business closings;
- Consult with local municipal officials so that the individuals and communities affected can plan for needed adjustments; and
- Make supplemental financial contributions to support the unemployment insurance fund to assist in worker transition.

D. Wages and Benefits

NLC urges the federal government to increase the minimum wage and Earned Income Tax Credit to levels that, in combination, allow families to support themselves above the poverty level. NLC opposes a federal sub-minimum wage for youth, and support a minimum wage for all workers regardless of age, sex or job classification.

E. Family and Medical Leave

NLC supports a minimum of 12 weeks leave in the event of a family illness or other life changing event requiring the employee to be away from his or her workplace, or to take care of a family member.

4.05 Equal Opportunity

NLC believes that the federal government should uphold fundamental principles of equality and the rule of law, and address, by enforcing the laws, acts of bias, bigotry and racism.

To ensure equal opportunity for all, the federal government should:

- Enforce civil rights laws and eliminate discrimination with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation or any social barriers or physical disadvantage;

- Promote and encourage efforts in employment, delivery of services, and health care to ensure that every person is considered only with regard to individual need or merit; and
- Take current action to remedy past discrimination.
- Develop and disseminate legal standards that will provide clear guidance on the use of mechanisms to address present or past racial discrimination;
- Promote diversity;
- Provide all employers with information on how to adopt and carry out effective affirmative action programs; and
- Expand opportunities in federal and local procurement for people of color, women, and individuals with disabilities.

4.06 Seniors and Social Security

NLC believes that the federal government should ensure that all seniors have:

- A floor of financial support which would provide an adequate standard of living;
- An opportunity for employment free from discriminatory practices because of age;
- Suitable housing;
- An appropriate level of physical and mental health services;
- Ready access to effective social services;
- Appropriate institutional care when required;
- A life and death with dignity;
- Information about available supportive services; and
- Supportive services that enable seniors to age in place.

A. Aging in Place

NLC believes that the federal government should take the lead in planning, research and development of a universal and comprehensive approach to aging in America that includes programs that will enable senior citizens to “age in place” and enjoy their

elderly years in the comfort, safety, dignity and familiarity of their own homes. In support of this effort, NLC urges the federal government to enact tax policies that take into account costs associated with aging in place, elder care and senior homesteading and establish programs that reduce homecare costs, increase the quality of care, reduce reliance on nursing homes, address mental capacity and mobility, provide transportation and accessibility services, create a continuum of housing options, and increase access to broadband and internet services to improve healthcare and social networking.

B. Social Security

The Social Security system should provide participants with a floor of financial support upon retirement or disability which should be supplemented the participants’ private savings, pension and other federal and state programs based on eligibility.

NLC urges the federal government to maintain the current benefits structure and the current method of establishing cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). Should changes in any aspect of the Social Security system be necessary, those changes should be phased in over time and should be designed so that they do not impact those who currently are receiving benefits or are likely to receive benefits within a five-year window.

NLC also believes that the federal government should take into account the number and types of non-traditional families that are emerging and ensure that these families receive the same types of retirement benefits as traditional families, particularly with regard to dependents and survivors.

NLC also believes that the federal government should initiate programs of enforcement and education for employers and employees so that domestic workers and

others who may have traditionally worked in the cash economy are not disadvantaged or disqualified from receiving Social Security benefits.

4.07 Individuals with Disabilities

The federal government should address the range of needs of individuals with disabilities so that they may fully integrate into society. However, any local assistance mandated by the federal government should be reasonable in its requirements and expectations, and when possible, fully funded by the federal government.

The federal government should:

- Adopt clear rules for cities to follow regarding accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- Provide financial resources directly to cities to help with the costs of compliance;
- Increase its support to allow persons with disabilities to achieve the maximum degree of self-sufficiency; and
- Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

A. City Liability

Federal law should require that individuals with grievances should first exhaust the local and state grievance procedures before they can initiate a hearing process with the federal government.

B. Self-Sufficiency

The federal government should increase its efforts to provide funding for employment, social services and housing programs for disabled persons. These efforts should include financial incentives for self-sufficiency.

C. Education

NLC fully supports the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementation, and urges the federal government to fully fund the commitment it made in 1975 to fund 40 percent of the per-pupil cost of services required by this Act.

4.08 Health

NLC supports universal access to health care. Universal access will improve standard health indicators such as infant mortality, life expectancy, and immunization rates of the young against preventable diseases. It can also eliminate disparities in treatment.

NLC believes that the federal government should:

- Control costs and reduce the rate of growth in health care expenditures and coverage costs;
- Ensure universal health care coverage;
- Maintain and improve Medicaid, Medicare, and the State-Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP) and promote school health clinics to expand access and availability of health care;
- Address disease management;
- Assist localities better align health care needs and resources;
- Reimburse localities fully for the costs of services provided to Medicare, Medicaid, Tri-Care and Veterans Administration patients;
- Adequately fund a federal block grant program to enhance our public health planning, capacity building, and disaster response systems;
- Assist local public health departments to better address infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and influenza, and increase the number of health services personnel employed;
- Adequately fund community health centers, which play a critical role in

providing uninsured and underinsured individuals with health care services; and

- Apply the same laws and rules concerning health care coverage and insurance to cities and towns as to any other employer.

In addition, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Fund block grant and categorical grant programs for health, such as the Maternal and Child Health Services Program, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, funding for community health centers and health programs for Native Americans, Migrants and Refugees;
- Require employers to cover the costs of health insurance for laid off workers and their dependents, as well as the creation of subsidized health insurance pools for workers without employment-based coverage;
- Provide funding for programs which offer transitional care and home health care services;
- Expand preventive health care programs for the poor; and
- Pay the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) premiums for people with catastrophic terminal illnesses who have left their jobs and cannot afford to pay the health insurance premium.

A. Elimination of Disparities

NLC urges Congress and the Administration to address the disparities in health care access and treatment between racial and ethnic minority population groups and Caucasians by following the recommendations of the National Institutes of Medicine, the National Healthcare Disparities Report and the President's New Freedom Commission report. In addition, Congress should adopt legislation and the Administration should

develop an administrative initiatives and education campaign that addresses and increases the awareness of the general public, health care providers, insurance companies, and policymakers about physical and mental health disparities based on race and ethnicity, including but not limited to the C,W, Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program so that it remains the single point of access for patients who require matching adult donors and umbilical cord blood.

B. National Health and Wellness Strategy

NLC urges the federal government to partner with cities and towns to improve the health of all Americans, but not to result in unfunded mandates. This should be done by developing a cross-sector, integrated national strategy that identifies priorities for improving the health of Americans and provides to cities and towns the support that is needed to create healthy and safe communities, expand clinical and community-based preventive services, empower people to make healthy choices, and eliminate health disparities. Examples of this include Let's Move and Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities which have as their goal reducing obesity and improving the overall health and wellness of city and town residents and employees. Specifically, NLC urges the federal government to address the significant problems faced in maintaining clean air, water, and land, and to focus on designing and promoting affordable, accessible, safe and health housing; strengthening local health departments so that they are able to provide essential services; integrating health criteria into decision making; and using health goals and objectives as benchmarks for existing conditions and as targets for future actions.

C. School-Based Health Clinics

NLC supports the use and growth of school-based clinics, which often help both students

and local community members obtain a comprehensive array of individualized services that address physical, emotional, and social needs.

D. Local Official Involvement

NLC urges the federal government to recognize that local officials should be involved in the assessment and design of an economic and comprehensive public and personal health services delivery system. Any federal effort to aid states in implementing disaster planning should include a requirement that the states include local officials in the planning process.

The federal government should encourage city officials to actively participate in projecting and certifying the need for facilities and in evaluating the performance of existing facilities in meeting city health needs. After a public health threat, terrorist attack, or natural disaster, the federal government should communicate quickly and effectively with local governments about public health activities and requirements.

E. Metropolitan Medical Response System

NLC supports the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) program and urges Congress to reauthorize, increase funding, and expand MMRS to work with additional cities and cover broader geographic areas. This would ensure that all cities have a coordinated response system in place with the necessary equipment and training to respond to bioterrorist events and other disasters.

F. Vaccination Stockpiles

The federal government should accelerate development and procurement of all vaccines and those pharmaceuticals needed to control and treat biological threats, such as smallpox and anthrax. Local health officials should have the ability to quickly access appropriate

medical supplies and vaccines through the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

G. Infectious Diseases

A pandemic of any type would cause serious problems worldwide and overwhelm the public safety, health and medical infrastructure, education facilities, public institutions, and private businesses of American cities and towns. The federal government, in coordination with the international community, should further develop and coordinate a comprehensive research and containment strategy that involves commitments of federal funding, supplies, equipment, training, expertise, personnel, countermeasures, and public health measures.

Specific attention should also be placed on the transmission of zoonotic diseases, those that are transmitted from animals to humans, which researchers now believe contributes to no fewer than 2.2 million deaths each year and is becoming an increasingly serious problem resulting from environmental change and increased travel among and between nations.

NLC urges the federal government to put in place effective methods for controlling the spread of zoonotic diseases and to invest in education and training so that city public health officials are prepared to address such outbreaks.

H. Substance Abuse

The federal government should maintain the definition of addiction and alcoholism as illnesses and should ensure that there are enough facilities for those who need alcohol and/or drug treatment including infants born addicted and children. Currently, private facilities are expensive, and public ones lack

the funding, space, and personnel to treat the growing number of individuals seeking treatment.

I. Protecting the Nation's Blood Supply

NLC remains deeply concerned about the potential for local, regional and national blood shortages that can occur when certain types of men are prohibited from donating blood. Therefore, NLC joins with the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks and America's blood centers in asking that the Food and Drug Administration address the potential for blood shortages by issuing guidelines that ensure that anyone who is healthy enough to give blood is able to do so regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

J. Mental Health Parity

NLC supports mental health parity and the provision of appropriate services that address the mental health needs for persons with mental illness. Whether at the federal, state or local levels, there should be effective plans for preventing, diagnosing, and treating mental illness that reflect the parity between mental and physical health.

K. Mental Illness

The federal government should ensure that the civil and constitutional rights of mentally ill people are protected. In addition, the federal government should provide funding and support to local communities to improve mental health in schools generally and to prevent youth suicide particularly, without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

L. Tobacco

Any revenues raised by increasing federal excise taxes should be earmarked for health services and tobacco control activities. Any federal legislation on tobacco should not

preempt stronger state and local tobacco control laws or remedies.

4.09 Immigration and Refugees

When admitted through a well-regulated system, immigrants strengthen the United States by creating economic growth, increasing America's scientific and cultural resources, strengthening our ties with other nations, fulfilling humanitarian commitments, and supporting family ties and that are necessary to build strong communities.

The federal government should take immediate responsibility for decisions made regarding the influx and settlement of immigrants into the United States. Immigration and refugee policy are set at the national level, and our entire nation feels the effects of federal immigration policy.

The federal government should:

- Provide an appropriate, legal means of immigration, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the United States, for foreign nationals who want to work here temporarily, become legal permanent residents, or gain citizenship;
- Provide local governments with financial and technical assistance to alleviate the local impact of new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services, health care, education, language services, refugee resettlement and civic integration;
- Enforce current immigration laws consistently and vigorously to eliminate illegal entry at the borders, visa overstays, working without proper documentation, and employing undocumented workers;
- Increase enforcement of visa overstays through the full implementation and

staffing of the US-VISIT and SEVIS programs;

- Avoid conscription of local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors, educators, health personnel and social service personnel into federal service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration enforcement agencies;
- Avoid transferring responsibility for enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local personnel by making undocumented status a criminal offense;
- Increase federal capacity and infrastructure to enforce the laws and provide efficient means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for temporary visas or legal permanent residency;
- Establish an affordable process whereby undocumented immigrant currently living in the United States may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang activity, consistent work history, and meeting English and civics requirements;
- Establish a process whereby once the documentation process has begun, individuals are permitted to obtain a driver's license or other official identification card;
- Establish a process whereby those immigrants who have earned such legal status should also be able to apply for expedited citizenship through additional processes, as appropriate and practical, if they do not move ahead of applicants with proper documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home countries;
- Adopt legislation like the "Dream Act" that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students

and provide certain students with a path to U.S. citizenship;

- Provide an accessible, effective system to ensure that businesses are able to hire foreign workers legally without excessive bureaucratic red tape and that all foreign workers are authorized and documented; and
- Provide same-sex couples with equal rights of immigration sponsorship as opposite-sex couples and amend current law to allow lawful permanent residents to sponsor the permanent partner for legal residence in the United States provided they are over 18 years of age, financially interdependent with the sponsoring individual, not married or in a permanent partnership with anyone other than the sponsoring individual and is not a first, second, or third-degree blood relation.

4.10 Cultural Resources

NLC urges the federal government to:

- Increase direct federal funding for cultural resources; and
- Review tax laws to facilitate indirect financial support of the arts.

In addition, federal funds should be available to cities to:

- Develop public lands and facilities use of the arts;
- Provide employment in cultural services; and
- Promote the use of the arts as a stimulus to economic development.

4.11 Veterans

NLC believes that all levels of government have an obligation to support the men and women of the armed services who have made sacrifices to preserve the freedom of the American people.

In order to meet the diverse needs of veterans and their families, NLC believes the federal government should:

- Provide effective veterans' health care;
- Support programs that provide homeless veterans with safe, affordable, and permanent housing and fund programs to eliminate root causes of veterans' homelessness, including research, treatment, and support programs;
- Ensure that comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their families;
- Provide veterans with the employment and education resources needed to succeed in the 21st century workforce;
- Ensure that National Guard and Reservists have access to support services when they return from active duty; and
- Focus on the unique needs of women veterans, especially the unique health care needs of women and those women veterans who reside in rural areas.

NLC RESOLUTION #21**IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, disadvantaged youth, specifically male students of color, including African-Americans, Latinos and Pacific Islanders as well as immigrants, face unacceptably high dropout rates, low graduation rates and widening achievement gaps between themselves and those who graduate; and

WHEREAS, parents, educators, business and community leaders, local elected officials, state elected officials, and federal policymakers must put the educational needs of all school-age children first, but especially those of potential and actual dropouts, so that all children have the education and skills they need to adequately contribute to American society; and

WHEREAS, putting the interests of children first means using every educational tool at our disposal to improve the quality of education, and making every educational option available so that otherwise disadvantaged students are successful in school and society at-large, including investing in teacher quality and professional development efforts in communities with high poverty; and

WHEREAS, 90 percent of a child's brain development has occurred by age five and for every dollar that is invested in high-quality early childhood programs for disadvantaged children, we can expect a 13 percent return on investment annually.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls upon the federal government to make the necessary investments in education, especially those targeted at early childhood education, reducing dropout rates, increasing graduation rates and addressing the achievement gap, to ensure that all children obtain the best education possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports increased educational opportunities for all children, especially those who are disadvantaged, and supports scholarship tax credits and opportunity scholarship programs to help all disadvantaged students succeed in school.

NLC RESOLUTION #22**IN SUPPORT OF ACTION BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AMONG YOUNG AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES**

WHEREAS, young men, generally, and African-American males, specifically, are dying at an alarming rate due to homicides, 13 times higher than non-Hispanic white youth¹, and the number one cause of death for 15-24-year-old African American males², and

WHEREAS, research documents that daily exposure to violence among men, generally, and African-American males, specifically, impacts traumatically and forever changes the lives of these youths³; and

WHEREAS, beginning as early as 1979 with the landmark Surgeon General's report *Healthy People: The Surgeon General's Report on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention*, the consequences of violent behavior on the health of children and young adults was documented⁴; and

WHEREAS, the loss of African American males in the community because of homicide and high rates of incarceration further impacts the community by reducing the number of males who may serve as role models for young African-American males⁵; and

WHEREAS, increased federal, state and local attention to this matter can help reduce the violence that plagues many young males, generally, and African-American males, specifically.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities calls upon the United States Congress to direct the Centers for Disease Control, whose primary responsibilities are to monitor public health; detect and investigate health problems, foster safe and healthy environments, and implement prevention strategies, to monitor, detect, and prevent violence among young males, generally, and young African-American males, specifically; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Centers for Disease Control, develop a holistic intervention designed to address the health-related aspects and implications of violence among young males, generally, and young African-American males, specifically; and

¹ Massetti, Greta M., and Corinne David_Ferdon. Preventing Violence Among High-Risk Youth and Communities with Economic, Policy, and Structural Strategies. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, February 12, 2016, Vol. 65, No. 1.

² Centers for Disease Control, "Leading Causes of Death by Age Group, Black Males-United States," 2006.

³ Fred M. Hechinger, "Saving youth from violence: Charting new paths to safety," National Civic Review, 2007.

⁴ Dahlberg LL, Mercy JA. History of violence as a public health issue. *AMA Virtual Mentor*, February 2009. Volume 11, No. 2: 167-172.

⁵ Mauer, Marc, "The Crisis of the Young African American Male and the Criminal Justice System," The Sentencing Project, Washington, DC, 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Centers for Disease Control develop short- and long-term health care strategies to bring back health to the African-American community in a way that promotes the longevity of African-American males.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and the President increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the federal budget to support data and indicators that will inform local strategy in cities and towns across our country as they address the issue of violence among young men, generally, and African-American males, specifically, in their communities.

NLC RESOLUTION #23**SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO END VETERAN AND CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS**

WHEREAS, the women and men who have sacrificed for our country through military service, and their families, should be honored with a safe place to call home; and

WHEREAS, people experiencing chronic homelessness are our most disabled and vulnerable citizens and most likely to die on the streets of our communities; and

WHEREAS, federal partners through the leadership of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) and, as outlined in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, have agreed to address the issue of homelessness in a strategic manner, addressing Veteran homelessness as an initial priority subpopulation and chronic homelessness as the secondary priority subpopulation; and

WHEREAS, NLC and 616 elected officials across 43 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have shown their commitment to Veteran homelessness by accepting the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and USICH; and

WHEREAS, local communities are on the front lines of the response to Veteran and chronic homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the prioritization of Veteran homelessness, the leadership of local officials, the availability of federal programs and technical assistance supports have led to a 47 percent decline in Veteran homelessness since 2010; and

WHEREAS, the progress on Veteran homelessness has helped national and local stakeholders learn lessons that are improving the quality of life for everyone in the community, housed and homeless alike; and

WHEREAS, the 19 percent reduction in chronic homelessness since 2011 nationally comes despite an increase in homelessness by 3 percent in major city Continuum of Care programs, which account for 48 percent of all homeless people in the United States; and

WHEREAS, homelessness in many cities has reached crisis proportions leading to an increase in the prevalence of homeless encampments and emergency declarations; and

WHEREAS, city officials cannot implement known best-practices, nor reach the goal of “functional zero” on Veteran or chronic homelessness as defined by the criteria and benchmarks designated by federal partners without the necessary federal resources; and

WHEREAS, communities cannot make sustained progress across all homeless subpopulations without an increase in new affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, city leaders recognize their ability to create local regulatory environments that can promote the development of new affordable housing, but without an increase in federal resources the overall shortage of affordable housing will not only continue, but further be exacerbated; and

WHEREAS, NLC endorses and encourages local communities to develop and implement plans to end homelessness that include the field-tested, evidence-based national innovations such as client assessments and prioritization tools to direct resources to those most in need, the development of a community shared and unified by-name-list, Housing First/Rapid Re-housing strategies among all community partners, and the engagement of local landlords to house Veterans and the chronically homeless who are using federal housing program supports.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC, to maintain the progress made on veteran homelessness, urges Congress to permanently authorize the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program at the level of no less than \$500,000,000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to rescind recent and all administrative actions permitting the reallocation of resources serving homeless Veterans for any other purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges members of Congress to direct the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to rescind any and all administration actions permitting the reallocation of resources serving homeless Veterans for any other purpose; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-Veteran specific resources funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Labor receive funding as appropriated in Fiscal Year 2018 Senate appropriations language; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports the 50 percent expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Program's authorization as outlined in S. 548, the Affordable Housing Credit Improvement Act of 2017; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC affirms the value of USICH and urges Congress to strengthen the Interagency Council as outlined in S. 743, while maintaining funding levels at no less than \$3.6 million; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges Congress to work with federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as well as national and local partners to establish a comprehensive housing development and preservation strategy and plan for meeting the affordable housing needs of all residents, especially those whose incomes are at or below 30 percent of the area median income.

NLC RESOLUTION #24**IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

WHEREAS, historically, the cities and towns of the United States are a cultural mosaic of multiple cultures and nationalities based on our nation's history of welcoming immigrants; and

WHEREAS, when admitted through a well-regulated system, immigrants strengthen the United States by creating economic opportunities, increasing America's scientific and cultural resources, strengthening our ties with other nations, fulfilling humanitarian commitments, and supporting family ties and family values that are necessary to build strong communities; and

WHEREAS, failure on the part of the federal government to secure the borders, track visa recipients in the interior, or enforce worksite laws allows illegal immigration to thrive, with an estimated 11.3 million residents, 3.5% of the nation's population, living and working in the United States without legal authorization or proper documentation¹; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, there have been an average of 350,000 new unauthorized immigrants to the United States each year²; and

WHEREAS, the worksite enforcement program does not adequately deter employers who willingly hire unauthorized workers because they face little likelihood that the federal government will investigate, fine, or criminally prosecute them; and it does not help employers who genuinely want to follow the law because their employee verification efforts are hindered by the extensive use of fraudulent documents; and

WHEREAS, the lack of infrastructure and capacity at the federal level makes the federal government unable to adequately track the entry and exit of visitors and temporary workers, and it creates unacceptable application backlogs and long delays, which provide strong disincentives for foreign nationals to abide by the legal means to enter or remain in the country; and

WHEREAS, 177,828 workers in 2015³, equal to about half of the undocumented seasonal workers in the United States⁴, used the current temporary, unskilled worker programs (the H2-A and H2-B visas); and

WHEREAS, the current immigration system inadequately addresses the growing numbers of individuals wishing entrance to the United States through a temporary work visa program or as legal permanent residents; and

¹ Jens Manuel Krogstad and Jeffrey S. Passel, "5 facts about illegal immigration in the U.S.," Pew Research Center (Nov. 2015).

² Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, "Unauthorized immigrant population stable for half a decade," Pew Research Center (July 2015)

³ U.S. Department of State, *Report of the Visa Office 2015, Nonimmigrant Visas Issued by Classification Fiscal Years 2011-2015*.

⁴ Steven Zahniser et. al, "The Potential Impact of Changes in Immigration Policy on U.S. Agriculture and the Market for Hired Farm Labor: A Simulation Analysis," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service (May 2012).

WHEREAS, roughly two-thirds of undocumented adult immigrants have lived in the United States for ten years or more, 1 million unauthorized immigrants are children, and another 4.5 million U.S.-citizen children have at least one undocumented parent⁵; and these families are forced to live “underground,” unable to get drivers’ licenses or car insurance in most states, unlikely to obtain health insurance, and afraid to report crimes to local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, since immigrants are barred from most federal public assistance, the burden of providing social services, education, and health care falls to the state and local governments, who are increasingly feeling the fiscal impact of both legal and illegal immigrants living in their communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government enforce its current immigration laws consistently and vigorously to eliminate illegal entry at the borders, visa overstays, working without proper documentation, and employing undocumented workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors, educators, health personnel and social service personnel, should not be conscripted into federal service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration enforcement agencies; and the federal government must not transfer the responsibility of enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local personnel by making undocumented status in the U.S. a criminal offense; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government must strengthen its worksite enforcement capacity and dramatically increase enforcement efforts at places of employment, as well as providing employers with a universal, reliable, effective, secure, non-discriminatory, and non-counterfeitable employee verification system, using the most up-to-date technology that will minimize fraud; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government must increase its capacity and infrastructure to enforce the laws and provide efficient means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for temporary visas or legal permanent residency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government must provide an appropriate, legal means of immigration, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the United States, for foreign nationals that want to work here temporarily, become legal permanent residents, or gain citizenship; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports establishment of a process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang activity, consistent work history, and meeting English and civics requirements; and that the immigrants who have earned such legal status should also be able to apply for citizenship through additional processes, as appropriate and practical, as long as they do not move ahead of

⁵ Paul Taylor et. al, “Unauthorized Immigrants: Length of Residency, Patterns of Parenthood,” Pew Hispanic Center (Dec. 2011).

applicants with proper documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home countries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should provide local governments with financial and technical assistance to alleviate the local impact of new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services, health care, education, language services, and civic integration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC also supports federal legislation like the “Dream Act” that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students and provide certain students with a path to U.S. citizenship.

NLC RESOLUTION #25**IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL HOLIDAY CELEBRATING THE 13TH AMENDMENT**

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime; and

WHEREAS, in the United States Congress, the Thirteenth Amendment was passed by the Senate on April 8, 1864, and by the House on January 31, 1865; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth Amendment was ratified by the required number of states on December 6, 1865; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 1865, Secretary of State William H. Seward proclaimed the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln's resolution to adopt the Thirteenth Amendment is celebrated as an observance on February 1st but is not a federal holiday; and

WHEREAS, liberated countries customarily celebrate their independence with a national holiday; and

WHEREAS, human freedom is an inalienable right superior to any other; and

WHEREAS, human bondage and trafficking continues to be an epidemic worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America has deployed, and continues to deploy, its armed forces to promote and establish freedom around the world; and

WHEREAS, it behooves every responsible society to celebrate human freedom and to commit to ensuring that freedom everywhere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities calls upon the United States Congress to declare a national holiday celebrating the adoption and enacted of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution to be celebrated on the second Monday of December, falling between the date of its ratification and adoption.

NLC RESOLUTION #26**SUPPORTING ACTION TO AMEND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S OVERTIME RULE**

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2016, President Obama and U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Perez announced the publication of the Department of Labor's final rule updating overtime regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule, set to go into effect on December 1, 2016, doubles the minimum salary threshold under which an employee is entitled to overtime pay to \$47,500 and establishes a mechanism for automatically updating the salary and compensation every three years; and

WHEREAS, this change would have made millions of previously ineligible employees eligible for overtime pay, and will significantly impact local governments, which are a major employer in cities and towns across the United States; and

WHEREAS, while the National League of Cities (NLC) and its members are dedicated to ensuring that all workers are compensated fairly, it is important that local areas have control over the regional and geographic differences in salary and economic impacts; and

WHEREAS, the impact of this final rule would have placed strain on the budgets of cities and towns across the country, who work hard to balance their annual budgets while providing the critical services needed in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the rule was delayed due to the issuance of a nationwide preliminary injunction blocking the rule by the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas and the Administration has dropped its appeal of the preliminary injunction in light of Judge Mazzant's ruling; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor issued a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input on the role the duties test plays with respect to the salary threshold, what is the proper methodology, and whether there should be multiple salary levels to reflect different regional economies, sizes of employers, and exemptions.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that NLC urges the Department of Labor to amend the overtime rule by supporting changes that would not include a three-year, automatic salary update as well as provide a phase-in approach to the overall salary increase, allowing cities to integrate the new salary threshold in their local budget planning process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC encourages Congress and the Administration to review the impact of any rule on cities and towns and to adjust the implementation timeline of this rule as is necessary.

NLC RESOLUTION #27**SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO INCREASE EMPLOYMENT AMONG TRANSITION
SERVICEMEMBERS, VETERANS, AND THEIR FAMILIES**

WHEREAS, the strength of the United States Armed Services is a matter of critical national security and is due, in part, to the maintenance of an all-volunteer force; and

WHEREAS, supporting the successful transition from service for existing military personnel is an essential component to maintaining an all-volunteer force in the future; and

WHEREAS, estimates regarding the size of military personnel levels have heretofore anticipated the United States' Armed Services transitioning approximately 250,000 military personnel from active duty every year for the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the women and men who have sacrificed for our country through military service, and their families, should be honored with a safe place to call home; and

WHEREAS, these women and men must have adequate and regular education and employment opportunities that create career-establishing possibilities; and

WHEREAS, 52 cities that are a part of NLC's Military Communities Council (MCC) represent communities adjacent to military installations which face unique challenges and opportunities due to an estimated one-third of exiting personnel remaining in these communities; and

WHEREAS, providing military personnel with an ability to complete up to 20 weeks of non-military work experience, certified industry training, internships, higher education, or other career skills programs prior to transitioning from service enhances the chance of civilian employment; and

WHEREAS, federal partners through programs such as the Department of Defense's SkillBridge Program and the Department of the Army's Career Skills Program facilitate post-military employment as personnel transition from service; and

WHEREAS, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) calls for the prioritization of service for all U.S. Department of Labor-funded job training programs for veterans and eligible spouses, including access to Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) and the National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) program for transitioning service members and their spouses; and

WHEREAS, the identification of service members and eligible spouses as dislocated workers, and the resulting application for DWGs, has resulted in an increase in available resources to local Workforce Development Boards in support of employment-training opportunities for transitioning military families in Washington State, Maryland, Washington, D.C., Texas, Georgia, and Colorado.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) in support of increasing employment opportunities for veterans, transitioning service members, and their families, urges Congress to provide increased funding to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I employment and training programs at the levels set forth in the House FY17 appropriations bill to provide for adequate investment in job training and adult education for this critical community and other critical populations in our nation's cities and towns