



Resolutions
22nd National Membership Convention

August 8 – 11, 2018

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Resolution 1: School Safety and Ending Gun Violence

WHEREAS, all students deserve safe, welcoming, supportive school environments where they can learn and thrive without fear; and

WHEREAS, no parent should send his or her child to school and fear that the child may never come home, and no child should be afraid to go to school; and

WHEREAS, no academic faculty, professional faculty, staff or student in an institution of higher education should fear for their lives or be victimized by gun violence while attending class or living the life of the academy; and

WHEREAS, principals, administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals and other school staff have shown over and over again their instinct to shield and protect students in tragic shootings, and their acts of heroism should be celebrated while we focus on the work needed to ensure safe environments free from gun violence; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the mass murder at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., we said, “never again,” yet there have been 239 school shootings since Newtown, with 438 people shot and 138 murdered—most recently the 17 students, teachers and staff at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fl.; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Northern Illinois University shooting was committed using legally purchased semi-automatic weapons by a perpetrator with a history of mental illness; and

WHEREAS, the mass murder of students, teachers and staff at Stoneman Douglas High School was committed using a legally purchased AR-15—the same weapon used in mass murders in Newtown, Conn.; Aurora, Colo.; Orlando, Fla.; San Bernardino, Calif.; Sutherland Springs, Texas; Las Vegas, Nev.; and more; and

WHEREAS, since the shootings at Columbine High School in Columbine, Colo., first shocked our nation, students, parents and educators have fought tirelessly to put an end to gun violence in our schools and communities and are now at the forefront of organizing efforts in the wake of the mass murder in Parkland; and

WHEREAS, there continues to be a rampaging public health and social catastrophe owing to gun violence in our communities, such that in 2017 there were 2,785 shootings and 650 gun deaths in Chicago alone while Illinois experienced 1,220 gun deaths in 2015 (the latest CDC data available); and

WHEREAS, Illinois and American students—led by the courageous young people of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School—are now leading the charge to prevent further tragedy:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) will support common sense measures to stop gun violence in schools and institutions of higher education, including further school safety efforts, reforms such as reasonable common sense gun reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LCLAA opposes counter-productive ideas like arming faculty and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will continue to fight for expansion of mental health care for all, including: expanding access to public mental health facilities and services for all and fully staffing every school in our Country with qualified mental health counseling and student support services to identify and intervene before students reach a crisis point; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will be a conduit for listening to members, parents and students, encouraging our local LCLAA Chapters to amplify their voices and experience in the public sphere to more effectively fight this scourge; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will redouble its efforts to support reasonable common sense gun reform measures into law; and

BE IT FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that the LCLAA will work to support the courageous efforts of all survivors of gun violence—from Stoneman Douglas to Sandy Hook, from Northern Illinois to the streets of Chicago--and all those who fight for schools that are free from gun violence.

Submitted by: LCLAA Aurora Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

Resolution 2: Declaring School Districts in Our Country as Safe Zones

WHEREAS, school districts across our Country should enthusiastically embrace its responsibility to welcome and educate all students regardless of their immigration status and celebrates their contribution to our diverse learning community; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that our schools are safe and inviting for all students and their families will facilitate the physical safety and emotional well-being of all children in our Country, and is paramount to students' ability to achieve; and

WHEREAS, educational personnel are often the primary source of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional health; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has declared that no public school district may deny any child access to a free public education on the basis of that child's immigration status; and

WHEREAS, no federal or state law obligates a public school district to devote any resources, financial or otherwise, to the enforcement of federal immigration laws; and

WHEREAS, federal Immigration law enforcement activities, on or around District property, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means, severely disrupt the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status, are entitled; and

WHEREAS, federal immigration enforcement activities around schools create hardships and barriers to health and educational attainment, and a pervasive climate of fear, conflict and stress that affects all students in a District, regardless of their background or status, such that children who have a status but whose family members, friends, or schoolmates do not, and students who are themselves undocumented, are all affected and at risk; and

WHEREAS, the many School Districts believes that it is in the best interests of the students, staff, families, and community to assure all students and families that it will oppose, to the maximum extent permitted by law, disruptions to the educational environment that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions, or immigration enforcement actions by other law enforcement personnel, may create.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) support all school districts to declare themselves safe zones for students and families threatened by immigration enforcement or discrimination, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, unless specifically required by federal, state or local law, school district employees, contractors, volunteers and representatives will not use school district

resources for the purpose of detecting or assisting in the apprehension of individuals whose only violation of law is or may be unlawful presence in the United States, or failing to produce documents authorizing lawful status in the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school district employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives shall refrain from inquiring about a student's or parent's immigration status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school district employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives shall refrain from requiring any student or parent to produce documentation regarding immigration status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school district employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives shall not, unless compelled by federal or state law, or by judicial order, or subsequent to receiving a signed release, disclose to ICE officers or to any other person or entity any information about a student's or family's immigration status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school district employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives shall not, unless compelled by federal or state law, or by judicial order, or subsequent to receiving a signed release, disclose to ICE officers or to any other person or entity any information about any school district student that is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school districts shall rely upon, to the maximum extent possible, ICE's longstanding policy which states that it will not conduct immigration enforcement activity at any sensitive location, which includes schools, without special permission by specific federal law enforcement officials, unless extraordinary circumstances exist. School district reiterates its intention to require a properly executed criminal warrant to justify any immigration enforcement activities such as arrests, interviews, searches, and surveillance on school property.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the event that immigration enforcement seeks to enter the school for enforcement purposes, designated school administrators will:

- (a) Request and record the identification of all agency or law enforcement officers making the request and the reasons for the requested entry;
 - (b) Notify the officers that they must have a criminal warrant authorizing them to enter the premises;
 - (c) Carefully assess any documents presented as authorization of entry by ICE or law enforcement in order to determine whether the warrant was issued by a judge and not an ICE supervisor;
 - (d) Inform the officers that they do not have authorization to execute an immigration arrest on school grounds if the authorizing document does not meet the standards for a court-issued warrant, which requires the signature of a judge; and
 - (e) If the document is a court-issued arrest warrant, request that the agent execute the arrest outside school grounds, request enough time to consider the emotional and physical safety of students and staff, and accompany the law enforcement agents while on the school grounds.
- District acknowledges that the scope of this clause is limited to on-campus situations, and it does not address off-campus activities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school districts shall continue to provide strictly confidential counseling to all students, including those who fear what might happen to them or family members due to their immigration status or lack thereof, and will, without inquiring into the particulars of any student's immigration status, refer each student having such fears to organizations to provide them with accurate information about their rights and responsibilities under immigration law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, to the extent possible, but subject to the requirements of state and federal law, school districts shall adopt policies to assist students who are impacted by the deportation of a family member in continuing their education without disruption.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no district student shall be denied equal access to any services, educational, or otherwise, including access to awards or institutional scholarships, on the basis of the student's immigration status.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, LCLAA shall distribute this Resolution to all Chapters to move and pass in their State and local school districts so if passed the district can distribute this to all students and parents and to all employees, contractors, volunteers, and representatives by effective means of communication and translate it into languages commonly translated by school districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school districts shall promptly review its existing policies and procedures and revise them to the extent necessary to comply with this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, school districts shall immediately provide appropriate training to personnel who may come in contact with ICE officers and agents to ensure the appropriate implementation of this Resolution.

BE IT FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED, that this Resolution is one step until comprehensive immigration reform is won.

Submitted by: LCLAA Aurora Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-

CONCURRENCE: _____

Resolution 3: Campaign for Postal Banking

WHEREAS: the U.S. Post Office operated the Postal Savings System from 1911 through 1967 and, at its peak, had \$3.4 billion in deposits; and

WHEREAS: the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) of the Postal Service issued a report recommending that the Postal Service provide basic financial services to the 68 million American adults throughout rural and urban America who don't have bank accounts or who have limited access to bank services; and

WHEREAS: "legal loan sharks" prey on the underserved by trapping them in a cycle of payday loans, check-cashing fees, and interest that costs families an average of \$2,400 per year when their entire annual family incomes average just \$25,000; and

WHEREAS: the U.S. Postal Service operates more than 33,000 retail locations nationwide, 59 percent of which are located in bank deserts, which are zip codes with either zero banks or only one bank branch; and

WHEREAS: the U.S. Postal Service has a mandate to serve all Americans, regardless of geography, at uniform price and quality; and has a skilled workforce which processed more than 378,000 money orders per day in 2014; therefore, the Postal Service has the infrastructure to provide the desperately needed services; and

WHEREAS: the OIG stated that the Postal Service could generate \$8.9 billion per year in new revenue by providing financial services, while at the same time protecting good-paying jobs; and

WHEREAS: the Postal Service is consistently rated one of the most trusted institutions and enjoys a high level of confidence from the public; and

WHEREAS: only 27 percent of Americans have confidence in banks, according to a Gallup Poll that was taken even before the full extent of the Wells Fargo fraudulent account and insurance scandal was revealed; and

WHEREAS: postal banking is one of the pillars of Wall Street reform called for by the AFL-CIO-backed "Take on Wall Street" campaign;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: *that the 22nd National Convention of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 8 – 12, 2018, endorses and supports the "Campaign for Postal Banking," including the ongoing efforts to compel the Postal Service to provide basic financial services such as paycheck cashing and electronic funds transfer, as a step toward establishing nonprofit, public postal banking.*

Submitted by: LCLAA New York City Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

Resolution 4: Discovery for Justice – Support for open, early, and automatic disclosure of criminal evidence

WHEREAS: New York is one of 10 states where prosecutors can wait until just before trial to share evidence, which critics say is unfair. In New York State it is legal practice to withhold information pertinent to criminal cases from a defendant and one's defense attorney until the very moment of trial. This is not because the information is unavailable; it is because the prosecution does not have

to turn over such information earlier. For example, prosecutors are not required by law to hand over police reports, prior testimony, and any other evidence to the defendant until trial begins, and in some cases, not until the first witness takes the stand. A prosecutor does not even have to turn over evidence that might help a defendant or cast doubt on one's guilt unless the prosecutor thinks it is important. This practice costs both taxpayers and the judicial system a great deal of time and money; and

WHEREAS: the New York State Legislature repeal of Criminal Procedure Law Article 240 and enactment of Criminal Procedure Law Article 245, whereby such amendment would require that both the prosecution and defense attorney(s) provide each opposing party with extensive discovery early in a criminal case. In addition, CPL Article 245 would include a mechanism for prosecutors with legitimate concerns about the safety of their witnesses or with on-going investigations to withhold or redact any evidence or information covered by the statute and to move for a protective order; and

WHEREAS: all municipalities in New York State and those throughout the nation that do not have early discovery in criminal proceedings join and adopt a Discovery for Justice law in advocating for open, early and automatic disclosure of criminal evidence. Across the nation criminal law reform has been a critical demand from communities of color that has for example, given rise to much Black and Brown organizing in order to address the disparate and racist policies engrained in the culture of the US when exacted against Afro-American, Latino, Immigrant, and American Indian communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that the 22nd National Convention of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 8 – 12, 2018, supports and adopts open, early, and automatic disclosure of criminal evidence as one of its legislative and organizing agenda items in the US and Puerto Rico.

Submitted by: LCLAA New York City Chapter
REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____
CONCURRENCE: _____
NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

Resolution 5: Immigrants from Latin America Living in the US Having the Right to Vote in National Elections of Country of Origin

WHEREAS: According to a Financial Times article of May 30, 2018, it stated the following, "Several of Mexico's top business leaders have lashed out at presidential candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador, warning employees of the "catastrophic effects" of populism and urging them to vote "intelligently" in presidential elections on July 1; and

WHEREAS: Coercion in the workplace and in the community on who or who not to vote for is a phenomenon found throughout Latin America. In countries for example, Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Peru, voters are increasingly fed up with spiraling violence, scandals, endless corruption, civil war, impositions of austerity, and free trade; and

WHEREAS: We find in the US the voices of immigrants are being regulated or outright silenced when they organize to vote in the national elections of their home countries, as well as the voices of trade unions and civil society throughout Latin America in times of national elections. It is the voice of corporations who are heard and is corporations who coerce workers in the workplace and where they live on who to vote for in national elections throughout Latin America; and

WHEREAS: To further exacerbate conditions throughout Latin America, the imposition of free trade and austerity is the culprit for the mass displacement and migration of people. It is precisely for these reasons immigrants must have the right to vote in their home country.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the 22nd National Convention of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 8 – 12, 2018, supports the right of all immigrants of Latin America in the US to have the right to vote in any and all national elections in their country of origin; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: National LCLAA and all its affiliates organize and mobilize in solidarity with the labor movement and civil society of the US and Latin America against all forms of voter suppression.

Submitted by: LCLAA New York City Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

Resolution 6: LCLAA Mobilization in Washington D.C. against President Trump’s Policy on the Deportation of Children at the Border

WHEREAS: The Trump Administration implemented on April of 2018 a border policy, which is not a law, that separates children from their families and where currently there has been over 2,000 children that have been separated from their families; and

WHEREAS: The separating of innocent children from their family; a majority of which are seeking asylum and that such policy does not and is not a reflection of the values, principles and ideals of the United States of America whose grand symbol of Liberty (The Statue of Liberty) proclaims at its base “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the golden door.” “To believe in something and not live it is dishonest.” Gandhi; and

WHEREAS: The policy to separate children from their families has been called inhumane by the United Nations Chief of Human Rights, Zeid Raad Hussein has said that this policy puts these children at risk of serious health consequences calling for an immediate end of this policy; and

WHEREAS: The American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Callen A. Kraft and Co-Chair Dr. Marcher Griffin have said that separating children from their parents by force is a form of child abuse and that this separation will cause severe psychological and irrefutable damage; and

WHEREAS: Faith leaders such as Archbishop of Miami Thomas Wenski, Evangelical leader Franklin Graham, Rabbi Jonah Dov Pesner, Director of Religious Action Center for Reform, Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, The Council of Bishops of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.) Southern Baptist Convention along with others of good will such as First Ladies Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Michelle Obama, Roslyn Carter, notable public figures such as Oprah Winfrey, Chrissy Teigen, Cher, John Legend, Lin Manuel Miranda, Jim Carrey, Sylvester Turner, Walter Koenig, Alan Alda, Jimmy Kimmel, John Colbert, Texas U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, Texas State Representative Gene Wu, and many more; and

WHEREAS: The labor movement and its affiliates have always fought not only for workers rights but have also fought for civil and human rights not only in the United States but throughout the world and knows that “An injustice anywhere is an injustice to all” (Dr. Martin Luther King); and

WHEREAS: This policy is a great injustice onto humanity, and completely Un-American.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) calls on the AFL-CIO and its affiliates, other organizations and people of like minds to mobilize in Washington, DC for immediate action in front of the White House demanding an immediate stop of this policy by using innocent children as political bargaining chips.

Submitted by: LCLAA New York City Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

Resolution 7: No to the Privatization of PREPA!

WHEREAS: The [labor unions](#) have been consistent in denouncing the privatization plans of various government administrations and also the recent intentional slowness in the process of restoring the electrical system. As we in the labor movement have become well aware privatization is one of many tools used in unionbusting; and

WHEREAS: The Governor is taking advantage of the pain of thousands of people who are currently without electric power. Given the insensitivity of Governor Ricardo Rosello of announcing the privatization of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) in the midst of the suffering of million Puerto Ricans who were left without electricity after Hurricane Maria hit the archipelago of Puerto Rico, labor unions once again are raising their voices in favor of the people. Labor unions have tried through their brigades to restore electric power as soon as possible, despite all the obstacles that the government, the Engineers brigade, the Fiscal Control Board, and the upper management of PREPA have erected to try to prevent labor unions in achieving that goal; and

WHEREAS: For decades unions have publically warned how various administrations have undermined workers and intentionally damaged the infrastructure of PREPA. This was intended to

provoke the people’s discontent with the service in order to privatize Puerto Rico’s first industry, “the jewel in the crown.” Which is why we must reaffirm our position to fight any attempts to privatize any of our services in Puerto Rico.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: the 22nd National Convention of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 8 – 12, 2018, stands in solidarity with the entire labor movement of Puerto Rico against all policies of privatization; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: LCLAA and the US labor movement organize in solidarity with the entire labor movement of Puerto Rico to oppose and fight against all forms of privatization, deregulation, and outsourcing, because these are the tools for unionbusting and such schemes and impositions undermine the democratic rights as well as the rights of self-determination of all people, communities, and nations.

Submitted by: LCLAA New York City Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

Resolution 8: Stop Family Separation Now

WHEREAS, many of us been heartbroken by recent news stories of children being torn away from their parents at the U.S.-Mexico border. One story described a mother whose baby girl was yanked from her arms while she was breastfeeding her. The mother cried out and tried to hang on to her child as government agents forcibly separated them. Hundreds of other families have been torn apart since the Trump administration enacted this brutal new policy. Dozens of parents are being split from their children each day — the children labeled “unaccompanied minors” and sent to government custody or foster care, the parents labeled criminals and sent to jail.; and

WHEREAS, this shockingly cruel, traumatic, and inhumane practice has no place in our country. It must be stopped immediately, and without holding these children hostage to pass other anti-immigrant policies. Such practices and policies are duplicitous with the family values the US government purports to uphold and defend here and abroad. The practices and policies of aggressively separating and deliberately destroying families is inhumane; and

WHEREAS, we must speak loudly enough, and in large enough numbers, that civil society, the media, and politicians stay focused on these atrocities. Together, we can make sure that Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen, other members of the Trump administration, and every member of Congress have no choice but to stop separating families; and

WHEREAS, all of us are someone's child. Many of us are mothers and fathers, sisters, brothers, grandparents, we're aunts and uncles, we're friends and neighbors who watch out for each other's children; and

WHEREAS, keeping children with their parents and broader families is something that should transcend party, geography, ideology, and other lines that often divide us; and

WHEREAS, no politician should be able to hide from the images and stories of families being separated—and of children sleeping on floors in former Wal-Mart's and kept in prisons, locked in what can only be described as cages. We must speak out and demand that this cruel treatment of children and families stop.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the 22nd National Convention of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, San Juan, Puerto Rico, August 8 – 12, 2018, stands in solidarity with all immigrant families under attack of being separated or have been separated by the US and mobilizes in unity with the broader labor movement and all of civil society in the reunification of these families; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: National LCLAA and all its affiliates organize and mobilize in solidarity with the US labor movement and civil society in overturning such policies; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: National LCLAA and all its affiliates organize and mobilize in solidarity with the national and international community in providing all humanitarian aid and relief these families need and deserve.

Submitted by: LCLAA New York City Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

Resolution 9: Decriminalize Migration

WHEREAS: Federal laws prohibiting “unlawful entry” and “illegal re-entry” are the legal weapons behind the heart-breaking separation of parents and children by the Trump administration; and

WHEREAS: Under the “Zero-Tolerance” policy created by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the Department of Justice prosecutes and imprisons all migrants for migration crimes; and

WHEREAS: The horrific consequences of these mass prosecutions are family separation and the transfer of children to child detention centers or federal foster programs; and

WHEREAS: The laws punishing entry and re-entry have troubling roots in white supremacy laws passed in the 1920s and these unlawful entry laws were introduced by a white supremacist South Carolina Senator with the specific intent of excluding and incarcerating Mexican immigrants; and

WHEREAS: Today, these laws, born from a shameful legacy of white supremacist intentions, fuel a new level of trauma and horror on immigrants and communities of color under the Trump Administration; and

WHEREAS: An estimated 200,000 or more people per year could be prosecuted under the Zero Tolerance policy and Attorney General Sessions plans to further expand mass prosecutions through “Operation Streamline,” a strategy of mass hearings and mass imprisonment, with hundreds of immigrants arraigned, convicted and sentenced simultaneously in just one hearing; and

WHEREAS: Already, migrant prosecutions under these unjust laws consume half of all federal prosecutions and contribute to a massive federal prison boom.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the 22nd National Convention of the of the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) call on Congress to immediately repeal 8 U.S.C. § 1325 and 8 U.S.C. § 1326, the laws that criminalize migration and punish immigrant families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: LCLAA call on Congress to reject any proposed laws, including so called “compromise bills,” that expand migrant criminalization and enable the Trump Administration to incarcerate more people for longer periods of time; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: That LCLAA shall further promote the adoption of this resolution by all of its affiliates, by the AFL-CIO and its affiliates, by the Change to Win Federation and its affiliates, and independent unions such as the NEA and UE.

Submitted by: LCLAA Pittsburgh Chapter

REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE: _____

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 1: Supporting That The U.S. Slash Puerto Rico's Debt (July 26)

WHEREAS, The bill would slash a major part of Puerto Rico’s \$73 billion in outstanding debt.

WHEREAS, The legislation “provides an avenue to comprehensive debt relief for Puerto Rico and other hurricane-ravaged U.S. territories so that they have a chance to get back on their feet,” according to the sponsors.

WHEREAS, Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 introduced a bill that would essentially wipe out tens of billions of dollars of Puerto Rico’s \$73 billion in outstanding debt.

WHEREAS, The proposal, entitled the “U.S. Territorial Relief Act of 2018,” counts Democratic Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Edward J. Markey of Massachusetts and Kamala Harris of California as co-sponsors. The bill “provides an avenue to comprehensive debt relief for Puerto Rico and other hurricane-ravaged U.S. territories so that they have a chance to get back on their feet,” according to the sponsors.

WHEREAS, "Greedy Wall Street vulture funds must not be allowed to reap huge profits off the suffering and misery of the Puerto Rican people for a second longer. It is time to end Wall Street's

stranglehold on Puerto Rico's future, return control of the island to the people of Puerto Rico and give the territory the debt relief it so desperately needs to rebuild with dignity," said Sanders, I-Vt.

WHEREAS, "Puerto Rico was already being squeezed before Hurricane Maria hit and will now have to rebuild under the weight of crushing debt. Our bill will give territories that have suffered an extraordinary crisis a route to comprehensive debt relief and a chance to get back on their feet," said Warren, D-Mass. "Disaster funding and the other resources in struggling territories' budgets must not go to Wall Street vulture funds who snapped up their debt. Congress should pass this legislation right away — our fellow U.S. citizens are counting on us."

WHEREAS, The legislation would give Puerto Rico and other U.S. territories the choice to terminate nonpension debt loads if they meet "certain stringent criteria," according to the bill.

WHEREAS, Rep. Nydia Velazquez, D-N.Y., is planning to introduce a companion bill in the House in September. "After Maria, Puerto Rico needs every tool possible to recover physically and economically. This legislation provides another path for the Island to get back on its feet and begin the journey toward a brighter future," she said in a statement.

WHEREAS, A U.S. territory would have to meet two of three criteria in order to qualify for the debt relief: be the recipient of major federal disaster assistance, have a population decline of 5 percent over 10 years or have per-capita debt exceeding \$15,000.

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico would almost certainly meet these requirements if the bill were to be signed into law.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 22nd National LCLAA and all its affiliates organize and mobilize in solidarity to support comprehensive debt relief for Puerto Rico and other hurricane-ravaged U.S. territories.

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the 22nd National LCLAA and all its affiliates, local CLC, State and National Labor Federations (AFL-CIO) and the Change to Win and its affiliates and independents unions such as NEA and UE to support and mobilize in solidarity to support comprehensive debt relief for Puerto Rico and other hurricane-ravaged U.S. territories.

Submitted by: LCLAA Aurora Chapter
REFERRED TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS: _____
CONCURRENCE: _____
NON-CONCURRENCE: _____

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION 2: On the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (July 25)

WHEREAS, Scott Pruitt's long record of misdeeds and malfeasance finally seems to have caught up with him. Whether his numerous scandals, recently making headlines, at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency his resignation. EPA's new chief sought Wednesday, July 11, 2018 to turn the page on Scott Pruitt.

WHEREAS, In a speech at agency headquarters, acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler pledged to safeguard the environment, saying it was his privilege "to work alongside you to protect human health." He reassured employees shell shocked by Pruitt's 17 months of secrecy and scandal that he shared their concerns.

WHEREAS, Wheeler said he would focus on a three-pronged agenda, much of which mirrored Pruitt's priorities: Making states more responsible for environmental regulation and enforcement; taking action more quickly on permitting decisions and enforcement; and increasing risk communication.

WHEREAS, Andrew Wheeler most recent job was as an energy lobbyist. His biggest clients included Murray Energy Corporation, which proudly bills itself as the largest coal mining company in America, and whose CEO, Robert E. Murray, vigorously fought the Obama administration's attempts to reduce carbon emissions and strengthen environmental and public health laws. Shortly after Trump took office, Murray, an unabashed climate denier, presented Vice President Mike Pence with a ridiculously pro-coal "action plan" that called for doing away with the Clean Power Plan, withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement, eliminating federal tax

credits for renewable energy, and—yes—halving the EPA’s workforce.

WHEREAS, Andrew Wheeler’s assurances did little to comfort Denise Morrison, the acting head of AFGE Council 238, a union that represents about 9,000 EPA workers nationwide. Wheeler will be more “disciplined” than Pruitt, but his speech on Wednesday “is simply a superficial attempt to plug the leaks and quell the dissent,” she said in a statement. “A successful coal lobbyist doesn’t change his stripes. He will continue to champion deregulation and permit big polluters to evade compliance altogether,” Morrison added.

WHEREAS, Here’s why Andrew Wheeler, coal industry darling, will continue working for its interests at the EPA—and why we will continue to fight back.

WHEREAS, The coal industry is a big fan of Trump, who moved recently to subsidize coal and nuclear energy over clean renewable energy. As a lobbyist for Murray Energy, the largest underground coal company in the U.S., Wheeler helped smooth the way for his client, arranging and attending a meeting between billionaire CEO Robert Murray and energy secretary Rick Perry. A few days after Trump’s inauguration, Murray had sent Trump a “wish list” for gutting environmental protections that soon became his “to-do” list, much of which has been accomplished since. Wheeler deregistered as a lobbyist for Murray Energy three days after it donated \$1 million to Trump’s super PAC.

WHEREAS, Guess which company is Inhofe’s largest political contributor behind the Koch Brothers? Murray Energy.

WHEREAS, you don’t have to look far to wonder where Wheeler’s interests lie. And it aligns perfectly with Trump’s desire to resuscitate the dying coal industry at the expense of our environment. We’ll keep working to oppose Trump’s pro-billionaire and pro-fossil fuel agenda at the EPA.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement LCLAA opposes any and all attempts to weaken the Environmental Protection Act and or regulations that will harm us or children and our future.

Submitted by: LCLAA Aurora Chapter

REFERRED TO THE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:

CONCURRENCE: _____

NON-CONCURRENCE: _____