

# **APPROVED Resolutions Submitted for the 2022 Democratic Convention as of 6/18/22**

## **RESOLUTION # 1**

**WHEREAS**, a 2022 study done by Mental Health America ranked states according to the prevalence of mental illness and rates of access to care. Higher scores indicate a higher prevalence of mental illness and lower rates of access to care. Idaho ranked 50<sup>th</sup> out of 51.<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Kootenai Hospital in Coeur d' Alene was forced to close its outpatient psychiatric clinic and addiction recovery programs due to chronic underfunding,<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Idaho has the 5th highest suicide rate in the US in 2020<sup>3</sup>,

**WHEREAS**, the suicide rate in rural areas is twice that of urban areas,<sup>4</sup>

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports efforts to increase mental health care funding from state funds in order to preserve and expand mental health care especially in rural communities and increase funding for school counselors.

Sources:

1. <https://mhanational.org/issues/2022/ranking-states>

2. [https://www.khq.com/news/idaho\\_news/kootenai-behavioral-health-closes-addiction-recovery-programs-and-outpatient-psychiatry-clinic-cites-funding-and-staff/article\\_4c3ae36e-d306-11ec-bfd9-374aa66c3a23.html](https://www.khq.com/news/idaho_news/kootenai-behavioral-health-closes-addiction-recovery-programs-and-outpatient-psychiatry-clinic-cites-funding-and-staff/article_4c3ae36e-d306-11ec-bfd9-374aa66c3a23.html)

3. <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/suicide-mortality/suicide.htm>

4. <https://time.com/3737574/suicide-urban-rural/>

## **RESOLUTION # 2**

**WHEREAS**, the right of persons to make decisions regarding their own bodies, including reproductive health care, is one of personal freedom,

**WHEREAS**, family planning reduces poverty, increases educational attainment and workforce competitiveness, improves health, and provides people the opportunity to make educated choices,

**WHEREAS**, family planning results in a reduction in the number of unintended pregnancies, which saves taxpayers and the state significant money that would be spent on support services,

**WHEREAS**, health care clinics that offer family planning services also offer cancer screenings, basic health services, and routine examinations, and rural communities in Idaho already lack adequate medical services,

**WHEREAS**, access to reproductive health care affects the circumstances under which children are born by reducing the number of children living in poverty and the number of cases of child abuse and neglect,

**WHEREAS**, family planning through the use of pregnancy prevention and abortion is a private medical matter involving persons and their medical health providers, without undue government interference,

**WHEREAS**, access to reproductive health care improves the quality of life and future outcomes for families but especially for women and children,

**WHEREAS**, religious beliefs can dictate the types of pregnancy prevention methods chosen for family planning,

**WHEREAS**, many areas in Idaho, especially rural areas, are classified as medically underserved and mothers in these areas face a greater risk of dying during or shortly after pregnancy,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports access to reproductive health care and the right of persons to bodily autonomy.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party opposes laws restricting abortion and pregnancy prevention methods.

Sources:

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/what-can-economic-research-tell-us-about-the-effect-of-abortion-access-on-womens-lives/>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-concurrent-resolution/40/text?r=7&s=1>

[https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/\\_cache/files/fbe989f2-ca68-473c-b469-42aa240278b5/abortion-access-is-key-to-economic-freedom.pdf](https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/fbe989f2-ca68-473c-b469-42aa240278b5/abortion-access-is-key-to-economic-freedom.pdf)

### **RESOLUTION # 3**

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2013 to create tax-free savings accounts for people with disabilities to cover necessary and needful expenses while preserving access to public benefits such as Medicaid and Social Security,

**WHEREAS**, 48 out of the 50 states either have or are developing an ABLE account program, leaving only Idaho and South Dakota without programs,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code 56-708 states that "Idaho has not implemented its own ABLE account program, the legislature finds that ABLE accounts promote dignified personal independence and opportunities for individuals with disabilities,"

**WHEREAS**, although Idaho Code 56-708 states that "it is . . . the intent of the legislature to ensure that the state provide technical assistance to Idahoans interested in opening ABLE accounts in other states," this represents an inadequate commitment to the well-being of Idahoans who want to participate in a program in this state,

**WHEREAS**, ABLE account holders have saved up to 550 million dollars and ABLE accounts provide investment opportunities for disabled people,

**WHEREAS**, people with disabilities have higher associative costs than those who are not disabled,

**WHEREAS**, 389,000 Idaho adults have a disability, which represents 28 percent of the population of the State but only one percent of ABLE-eligible individuals have opened an ABLE account,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party calls on the Idaho State Legislature to pass a law creating an ABLE account system to implement the provisions of the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act of 2013. Furthermore, the Idaho Democratic Party calls on state legislators to research and understand the program and the benefits to disabled individuals.

## **RESOLUTION # 4**

**WHEREAS**, there has been a rapid loss of Social Workers in the State of Idaho and significant decrease in foster families, over the past two sessions, the Governor did sign legislation to provide necessary increases bringing Idaho into the 'moderate' range of pay/support for our Department of Health and Welfare and its stakeholders,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho is the fastest growing state in the nation and we must prepare for the system to be strained further and shall keep its health and stability as a priority of ours, as highly stressed as are concerns for education,

**WHEREAS**, all of Idaho suffers when children are left homeless and our resources are thinly spread to provide the least possible support,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party will advocate for the support of the Department of Health and Welfare and for legislation that fully funds its growing needs, not only adequately compensating those who take on some of the most difficult work in the state but appropriately compensating Idaho families who take on other's children and the social workers who take on the difficult task of ensuring Idaho children are in the safest place and keeping them with their families or the best possible family alternative when necessary.

## **RESOLUTION # 5**

**WHEREAS**, safe and efficient school buildings are necessary for quality education,

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho legislature has a constitutional duty to provide a thorough system of public, free schools, and “maintain adequate school building facilities across the state,”<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Idaho’s revenue relies on fluctuating income and sales taxes, which contribute to volatility in the funding to public education making local funding for public education facilities inconsistent and inadequate,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho spends less per student on school facilities than all neighboring states, ranks near the bottom nationally, and is the only state among its neighboring states with a 2/3 supermajority required to pass a school construction bond,

**WHEREAS**, the Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE) Report on K-12 School Buildings<sup>1</sup> released in January, 2022 stated that:

- \$847 million is needed to bring K-12 school buildings up to ‘good’ condition
- the high voter threshold needed to pass a school bond has resulted in most school bonds failing over the past 10 years.
- The amount of discretionary funds, which can be used for building expenses, has decreased since 2006,

**WHEREAS**, in 2005, the Idaho Supreme Court declared the state school funding system unconstitutional because it left the full cost of school construction to the local property taxpayers and then ordered the legislature to fix the problem,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports a permanent public school building fund that ensures safe and efficient public school facilities throughout the entire state.

Source:

1. Office of Performance Evaluations Report: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/OPE/Reports/R2201.pdf> (pp.13, 21, 28, 29)

## **RESOLUTION # 6**

**WHEREAS**, Article IX of the Idaho Constitution states, “it shall be the duty of the legislature of Idaho, to establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools,”

**WHEREAS**, there is unequal access to learning opportunities for Idaho children across the state because where an Idaho student lives and goes to school determines the resources and educational opportunities available to them which are largely due to whether their community can pass a supplemental levy,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho’s school supplemental tax levy bill has increased 56% over the past decade, setting another record for the 6th consecutive year<sup>1</sup> and public schools are increasingly dependent on supplemental levies just to keep their doors open and provide basic services for students,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho continues to be last in the nation for funding per K-12 student and last in the nation for early childhood education participation,<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Idaho is one of only 6 states that do not offer any funding for Preschool<sup>3</sup> while 57% of Idaho children under age six live with parents who work elsewhere during the day and need to go somewhere while their parents work,<sup>4</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Idaho is among the top 10 states with the most crowded classrooms,<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Idaho ranks last among its neighbors in school building spending,<sup>6</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Idaho currently has hundreds of teacher vacancies<sup>7</sup>, largely aggravated by low wages, and many schools can’t find qualified applicants, which could result in inexperienced teachers in hard-to-fill disciplines such as math, science, and special education,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports increased funding of Idaho public schools, including preschool, and endorses the Quality Education Act Initiative which will increase funding for Idaho’s K-12 public schools.

Sources:

1. Idaho Supplemental Levies and Property Taxes:

<https://www.idahoednews.org/news/six-years-and-counting-idahos-supplemental-levy-bill-sets-another-record/>

2. K-12 student funding: [https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2021%20Rankings\\_and\\_Estimates\\_Report.pdf](https://www.nea.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/2021%20Rankings_and_Estimates_Report.pdf)

3. Early Childhood Education: <https://www.kxly.com/idaho-ranks-last-in-the-nation-for-early-childhood-education/>

4. Children Under 6 with parents who work:

<https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/5057-children-under-age-6-with-all-available-parents-in-the-labor-force>

5. Crowded Classrooms: <https://1035kissfmboise.com/idaho-makes-the-top-10-most-crowded-classroom-list/>
6. January, 2022 Idaho Office of Performance Evaluation Report on K-12 Public School Buildings: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/OPE/Reports/R2201.pdf>
7. June 2, 2022: Idaho school districts struggling to fill nearly 900 teaching positions: <https://www.ktvb.com/article/news/local/208/idaho-districts-to-fill-nearly-900-teaching-positions/277-cf3937d3-f907-4925-b6b7-a69e7d458f10>

## **RESOLUTION # 7**

**WHEREAS**, access to books and library materials is the right of every student and every learner,

**WHEREAS**, our nation's diversity is benefitted by a wide variety of ideas, voices and viewpoints available to readers

**WHEREAS**, our democracy is dependent upon well-educated and literate citizens who can communicate, distinguish facts from disinformation and make informed choices as to their elected representatives,

**WHEREAS**, as the US Supreme Court stated that students "do not shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech and expression at the schoolhouse gate," (1982 Board of Education vs Pico),

**WHEREAS**, restricting information and freedom of expression undermines students' and learners' free speech, ability to think critically and express empathy for others,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports and defends all students' and all learners' freedom to read and access to information. The Idaho Democratic Party upholds the right of parents to make decisions regarding what their own children can read, but not what other children can read.

## **RESOLUTION # 8**

**WHEREAS**, intellectual freedom is the basis of our democracy, and the right of every individual and citizen to freely access information,

**WHEREAS**, our democracy is dependent upon well-educated and literate citizens who can communicate, distinguish facts from disinformation and make informed choices as to their elected representatives,

**WHEREAS**, both school and public library collections encompass a variety of resources selected and maintained by professional librarians according to board approved policies to meet both curricular, as well as recreational interests,

**WHEREAS**, libraries are encountering book challenges and book bans by groups focusing on censoring subjects such as race, gender identity, history and ethnicity by restricting access and denying differing ideas,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho academic, school and public librarians are under threat of criminal misconduct,

**WHEREAS**, removal of materials and censorship threaten individuals from diverse and marginalized communities including LGBTQ+, and racial minorities,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports and defends the Intellectual Freedom of every individual to read and access information without restriction. The Idaho Democratic Party is committed to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of Librarians and Library collections to ensure our democratic freedoms.

## **RESOLUTION # 9**

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho Republican Party has declared its support for the 1776 Commission educational curricula,

**WHEREAS**, the 1776 Commission was disbanded immediately by President Biden upon assuming office,

**WHEREAS**, the curriculum has been condemned by legitimate historians stating the report, was "filled with errors and partisan politics"<sup>[31][5]</sup> and identified factual inaccuracies and a lack of scholarship.<sup>[33]</sup> The [American Historical Association](#) (AHA), in a statement cosigned by 33 other historical societies, stated that the report was completed "without any consultation with professional historians of the United States,"

**WHEREAS**, there is no evidence that critical race theory is being taught in Idaho schools as the 1776 Commission suggests,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party strenuously opposes the adoption of the 1776 Educational Curricula in the public school system as a part of the American history curricula.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Democratic County Party Committees and Legislative District Central Committees be made aware of the attempts by the Republican Party to use any screening tools provided by the 1776 Action organization as a criterion for candidate screening for any public office associated with education and that the screening tools provided by the Organization are not valid screening tools.

## **RESOLUTION # 10**

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Democrats uphold the principle of “one person, one vote” and believe that the act of voting is inherent in the definition of American democracy and that voting is an integral part of good citizenship,

**WHEREAS**, voting accessibility should be increased to promote citizen participation in democracy,

**WHEREAS**, all electors must register before being able to vote at any primary, general, special, school or other election,

**WHEREAS**, over the past 40 years, an average of 62% percent of eligible Idaho voters participate in presidential-year elections and an average of 46% of eligible voters participate in non-presidential-year elections,<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, state-based restricted Voter ID and registration requirements suppress voting among younger voters, students, the elderly, low-income citizens, and people of color,

**WHEREAS**, eleven percent of American adults do not have a state-issued identification card,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho has transparent, consistent, high integrity elections without any evidence of significant voter fraud,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Idaho Democrats will promote legislation to increase the number of eligible Idaho citizens voting through:

- Upholding existing Idaho code that allows non-state IDs to be used in conjunction with proof of address for same day voter registration,
- Supporting Motor-Voter automatic voter registration programs that register voters at the time of driver’s license or state ID issuance or renewal for citizens who will be 18 or over during the next election, and
- Requiring early voting in all Idaho counties beginning the third Monday before Election Day and providing resources to all Idaho counties so they can provide the maximum number of early voting opportunities possible.

Source:

1. Idaho Secretary of State website: <https://sos.idaho.gov/elect/voterreg/turnout.html>

## **RESOLUTION # 11**

**WHEREAS**, only resort cities such as Sun Valley, Hailey, McCall, have the authority under Idaho Code section 50-1044 to pass local options taxes and those must be passed by a 60 percent majority vote in these resort cities,

**WHEREAS**, creating local-options taxation authorities can enable innovative approaches to services like mass transit besides bus service, such as light rail, trackless tram, and bicycle friendly areas as well as other local priorities including conservation, affordable housing, open space, parks and recreation, and hospitals,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho is the only state that does not fund mass transit at the state level whereas the expansion of mass transit is in the interest of improving accessibility to transportation for Idahoans with disabilities, improving hours and increasing routes for bus services beneficial to working Idahoans who do not have 9 to 5 working hours, as well as reducing automobile usage and thereby reduce carbon dioxide emissions and alleviating the long-term effects of climate change by removing cars from the road,

**WHEREAS**, transferring the tax burden from property taxes to sales taxes for localities can alleviate property tax burdens for homeowners, including disabled and senior citizens on fixed income, and reduce the breakneck pace of housing price increases,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party calls on the Idaho State Legislature to enact a law expanding general local-option taxation authority for all cities, counties, and local government subdivisions in the state.

## **RESOLUTION # 12**

**WHEREAS**, each city knows what is necessary to attain and maintain a viable workforce,

**WHEREAS**, each city should have local control and make its own determination and not be usurped by the State,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party opposes state interference concerning the minimum wage determined by Idaho cities that exceed the national guidelines.

## **RESOLUTION #13**

**WHEREAS**, all of us are different, unique individuals,

**WHEREAS**, we are all Idahoans and all of us should respect the dignity of others and be free of discrimination based on our differences,

**WHEREAS**, our mental health, physical health, and our ability to participate and contribute to society are dependent upon our own unique perceptions of ourselves,

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination in employment, education, housing and public accommodations on the basis of race, sex, color, national origin, religion, age, or mental or physical disability, but does not include other differences,

**WHEREAS**, “gender identity” means a person’s actual or perceived gender identity, appearance, mannerisms, or other characteristics without regard to their sex at birth, since many other factors influence these characteristics, including hormonal differences, which are what we are born with and not a choice,

**WHEREAS**, “sexual orientation” means a spectrum from asexual to pansexual, which is their right to express in order to live their best lives,

**WHEREAS**, civil rights should guarantee equal social opportunities and equal protection under the law, regardless of race, religion, disability, or any other personal characteristic,

**WHEREAS**, freedom of religion is enshrined in the constitution, so also is freedom FROM the religious beliefs of others. Sexual orientation is not a choice, while religious belief is and all Idahoans should be allowed to live their lives free of oppression from religious dogma. Religion cannot be used as a tool to discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, gender, or orientation in the secular sphere,

**WHEREAS**, currently, there’s no law against discrimination on the basis of “gender identity” or “sexual orientation” in Idaho other than in local ordinances in only a few jurisdictions. Elsewhere in the state, for example, it is legal to fire someone or deny them housing solely because they’re gay or perceived to be gay,

**WHEREAS**, members of hate groups such as those representing the Patriot Front arrested recently in Coeur d’Alene<sup>1</sup>, and even the pastor of a small Boise Baptist church<sup>2</sup> have expressed outright threats to the safety and even the very lives of LGBTQ Idahoans,

**WHEREAS**, every Idahoan should be treated with dignity and respect regardless of race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity because we all deserve to live our lives, work, and have the families of our choosing,

**WHEREAS**, *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 590 U.S. (2020), was a landmark United States Supreme Court civil rights case in which the Court held that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects employees against discrimination because they are gay or transgender,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports freedom from discrimination because of “sexual orientation” or “gender identity” as a civil right that should be included in the Idaho Human Rights Act (Title 67 Chapter 59).

Sources:

1. <https://www.cnn.com/2022/06/11/us/31-people-arrested-for-conspiracy-to-riot-near-idaho-pride-parade/index.html>
2. <https://www.eastidahonews.com/2022/06/ahead-of-pride-month-idaho-pastor-says-lgbtq-people-deserve-death-penalty/>

## **RESOLUTION # 14**

**WHEREAS**, climate change is associated with extreme weather events such as wildfire, drought, floods, and intense heat that are worsening in frequency and severity and threaten life, property, and ecosystems in Idaho and around the world,

**WHEREAS**, climate change and weather extremes adversely affect health, well-being, property values, financial circumstances, social stability, agriculture, energy production, recreation, access to goods, and more,

**WHEREAS**, human causes of climate change are known to include fossil fuel combustion and complex feedback processes associated with urbanization and other changes in land use,

**WHEREAS**, building and transportation sectors are major emitters of greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho has been the nation's fastest-growing state for five consecutive years and such growth adds pressure on the system's capacity to meet everyone's needs while conserving resources for this and future generations,

**WHEREAS**, climate change will harm future generations,

**WHEREAS**, although some adverse effects are irreversible, their intensity and duration can be moderated through mitigation and adaptation strategies implemented today,

**WHEREAS**, today's challenges also present opportunities for innovation and investment in Idaho's future,

**WHEREAS**, smart land use planning, energy choices, resource conservation, consumptive practices, environmental justice, and science-informed policies are vital to sustainable outcomes,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports:

- science-based actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change,

- exploration of statewide expansion of electric vehicle infrastructure, public transit, non-motorized travel accommodations, and incentives for the restoration of passenger train service and transition away from reliance on fossil fuels,
- state tax policies providing incentives for residential and commercial energy efficient facility development and robust energy and building codes that facilitate efficiency and reduce consumer costs, and
- incentives for job creation in clean, renewable energy technologies.

## **RESOLUTION # 15**

**WHEREAS**, Medicare and Social Security are essential for American seniors and Americans with disabilities, ensuring access to health care, disability income, and a retirement with a minimum guaranteed income proportional to one's contributions,

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Senator Rick Scott (R-Florida) has proposed to sunset all federal laws in five years, including laws enabling Medicare and Social Security,

**WHEREAS**, Congressional Republicans have a track record of attempting to cut Medicare benefits and curtail and/or privatize Social Security,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party strenuously opposes the repeal or sunset of any legislation on which the implementation of Medicare and Social Security rely and opposes cuts to Medicare and Social Security benefits.

## **RESOLUTION # 16**

**WHEREAS**, vibrant and prosperous rural communities are essential components and play an important role across the state. Rural communities in Idaho grow and supply food, steward natural resources, contribute disproportionately to the armed services, and are critical to our state's economy,

**WHEREAS**, rural Idaho communities are richly diverse and face varying challenges and opportunities that threaten the livelihood of a large portion of Idaho citizens. At the same time, they share common characteristics, such as low population density and distance to urban centers, housing shortages and limited educational and job opportunities that create challenges for economic prosperity,

**WHEREAS**, rural populations in Idaho are increasing rapidly. By offering opportunities, connectivity, and quality of life, rural communities can thrive and prosper while improving economic stability and protecting the rural character and natural resources that draw people to these areas,

**WHEREAS**, small businesses and industries, including timber, farming, ranching, and recreation, are the foundation of rural economies generating tax revenues, creating jobs, providing essential goods and services, and contributing to the culture and character of small towns,

**WHEREAS**, natural resources from rural communities produce the revenue and products that help build and feed larger Idaho communities. Rural communities adjacent to public lands carry the burden of providing emergency services to all Idaho residents and out-of-state visitors. Rural communities need statewide financial support via reinvestment into necessary infrastructure to not burden services designed for small communities,

**WHEREAS**, federal lands cannot be taxed by state or local governments, so PILT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) was created to compensate local governments for loss of income. Currently, the formula for PILT gives urban areas with small amounts of federal land more money per acre than rural areas with large tracts (Ex. Ada County = \$1.69/acre, while Custer County = \$.25/ acre). PILT is the only money rural areas receive that are not dedicated funds and they can be leveraged as seed money to provide rural economic development,

**WHEREAS**, natural resources are often extracted from our rural communities and do not invest enough back into the communities where they came from. This undermines the economic foundations of rural communities by making timber, farming, ranching, and recreation increasingly more difficult to make profitable, as well as eliminating essential services that support the people within the rural community,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party will promote the interests and concerns of rural Idaho by engaging community leaders, enhancing connections to rural voters, creating equitable distribution of funds to rural Idaho, and stimulating economic development in our rural communities that fosters prosperity and provides viable resources that maintain essential infrastructure.

Source: Western Governors Association- Policy Resolution 2020-07 Rural Development Family Farm Alliance.org

## **RESOLUTION # 17**

**WHEREAS**, the rate of gun deaths in Idaho increased 43% between 2011 and 2020, and the rate of gun suicides increased 40%.<sup>1</sup> Eighty-four percent of all gun deaths among children and teens in Idaho are suicide,<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, Idaho had the 16<sup>th</sup> highest number of gun related deaths per capita of all 50 states in 2020,<sup>2</sup>

**WHEREAS**, an average of 278 people die in Idaho every year by guns with an average of 21 of those being children and teens,<sup>1</sup>

**WHEREAS**, evidence suggests that age-based restrictions may limit gun violence.<sup>3</sup> Young people, due to brain development, are often more impulsive than adults<sup>4</sup> and federal law currently limits the ability of those under 21 to purchase handguns but does not stop those 18 and over from buying assault-style rifles,<sup>5</sup>

**WHEREAS**, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution states: “A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed,”

**WHEREAS**, we recognize responsible Idaho gun owners' 2nd Amendment Rights, we also recognize that unregulated vs. “well regulated” gun ownership infringes on our liberty to walk safely in our schools, churches, cinemas, shopping malls, etc. without fear of gun violence,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho is 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation for Gun Law Strength,<sup>6</sup>

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party supports common sense gun laws including safe storage, universal background checks, extreme risk protection orders, firearm responsibility education, and raising the age to purchase assault-style weapons to 21, in order to prevent injury and loss of life by gun violence in Idaho.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party stands in support of H.R. 7910 - Protecting our Kids Act and H.R. 2377 - Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2021 (*summaries below*) and the election of candidates to office who support these pieces of legislation.

Sources:

<sup>1</sup><https://everystat.org/state-pdfs> (Idaho)

<sup>2</sup>[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm\\_mortality/firearm.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/06/04/upshot/mass-shooting-gun-laws.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.science.org/content/article/why-teenagers-are-so-impulsive>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/qa/does-customer-have-be-certain-age-buy-firearms-or-ammunition-licensee>

<sup>6</sup> <https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/>

Bill summaries authored by Congressional Research Service (CRS)

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/>

### **H.R.7910 Protecting Our Kids Act**

This bill makes various changes to federal firearms laws, including to establish new criminal offenses and to expand the types of weapons and devices that are subject to regulation. Among the changes, the bill

- generally prohibits the sale or transfer of certain semiautomatic firearms to individuals who are under 21 years of age;
- establishes new federal criminal offenses for gun trafficking and related conduct;
- establishes a federal statutory framework to regulate ghost guns (i.e., guns without serial numbers);
- establishes a framework to regulate the storage of firearms on residential premises at the federal, state, and tribal levels;
- subjects bump stocks to regulation under federal firearms laws; and
- generally prohibits the import, sale, manufacture, transfer, and possession of large capacity ammunition feeding devices.

### **H.R.2377 Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2021**

This bill authorizes and establishes procedures for federal courts to issue federal extreme risk protection orders. A federal extreme risk protection order is a federal court order that prohibits a person from purchasing, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition. A family or household member, or a law enforcement officer, may petition for a federal extreme risk protection order with respect to an individual who poses a risk to themselves or others. The bill also expands the categories of persons who are prohibited from purchasing, shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving a firearm or ammunition. Specifically, it adds, as a new category, persons who are subject to an extreme risk protection order.

NOTE: H.R. 7910 passed the House on 6-8-2022 and H.R. 2377 on 6-9-2022. Both have been sent to the Senate.

## **RESOLUTION #18**

**WHEREAS**, for over 130 years Governor of the State of Idaho has been the only person who may call the Idaho Legislature into an extraordinary legislative session and this remains an important check and balance on legislative power;

**WHEREAS**, without sufficient checks on the legislature's power to convene extraordinary sessions, Idaho's part-time citizen legislature is at risk of becoming a full-time legislature attracting career politicians who spend all of their time in Boise rather than living and working in our communities,

**WHEREAS**, the public, businesses, and stakeholders need a government that operates in a routine and predictable manner so that they can meaningfully participate in the legislative process;

**WHEREAS**, other states require a higher threshold of  $\frac{2}{3}$ 's or  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of the legislature to consent to convene an extraordinary legislative session;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho Democratic Party strongly opposes SJR102, a proposed Idaho Constitutional Amendment that would allow the Idaho Legislature to call itself into a special session.