Resolution by the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee

Topic: Regulating Semi-automatic Weapons, Opposing Candidates Funded by the NRA, and Supporting Black Lives Matter

Submitted by: ACDEC Steering Committee, March 2018

Resolution Language:

WHEREAS the February 14th 2018 attack on Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and its aftermath starkly illustrate once again the need for a serious national conversation about firearms legislation; and

WHEREAS this atrocity is the most recent in a chain of school shootings involving our children that dates back nearly twenty years; and

WHEREAS the National Rifle Association (NRA) has consistently opposed any meaningful national conversation about reasonable gun law reform and has supported laws that promote irresponsible gun ownership, endangering the lives of our children to increase profits for the gun industry; and

WHEREAS the NRA has consistently opposed federal research into gun-related injuries, preventing an evidence-based discussion of gun violence; and

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment is a right and a privilege for the protection of all people who live in this country and we do not accept its interpretation by the NRA; and.

WHEREAS, the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee believes that it is irresponsible for legislators not to take reasonable action to reduce the epidemic of gun violence that uniquely afflicts our nation on a regular basis, including the 2016 mass shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, FL; and the 2018 mass shooting of children at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida; and

WHEREAS, "Black Lives Matter" have been marginalized as they called for demilitarization of police, ending racial profiling, criminal justice reform, and investments in young people, families, and communities after too many lost in the unacceptable epidemic of extrajudicial killings of unarmed black men, women, and children at the hands of police.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee supports legislation that opposes the proliferation of firearms and prohibits the sale of semi-automatics and accessories, including but not limited to, all semi-automatic weapons; armor-piercing ammunition; high capacity magazines or clips that can hold more than 10 bullets at a time; and bump stocks or any accessory that simulates the ability of a fully automatic weapon.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee supports legislation that requires all firearms buyers to be properly trained and to pass a stringent background check, regardless of how, where and from whom the weapon is purchased; and legislation that rescinds all existing restrictions on the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms from using electronic means for record keeping relating to firearms and fully funds such functions.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee urges the Florida Democratic Party to immediately adopt a statewide resolution supporting only those candidates who do not accept campaign contributions from the National Rifle Association, its subsidiaries, affiliates and related PACs.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee joins with Americans across the country in affirming 'Black Lives Matter' and other efforts to make visible the pain of our fellow brother and sister Americans and condemn extrajudicial killings of unarmed African American men, women and children.

THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED that the Alachua County Democratic Executive Committee urges all levels of government including Congress and the Florida State Legislature to adopt systemic reforms at state, local, and federal levels to prohibit law enforcement from profiling based on race, nationality, ethnicity, or

religion, to minimize the transfer of excess equipment to federal and state law enforcement; and to support prevention programs that give young people alternatives to incarceration.