

ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS

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CHILDREN, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S 2013 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

WHEREAS, President Obama believes in the pursuit of an America built to last – a nation with an educated, skilled workforce with the knowledge, energy, and expertise to succeed in a highly competitive global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, for too many Americans, this future is limited by drug use, which inhibits the ability of our citizens to remain healthy, safe, and achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, in April, the Administration released the 2013 National Drug Control Policy, a 21st century approach to drug policy that outlines innovative policies and programs and recognizes that substance use disorders are not just a criminal justice issue, but also a major public health concern; and

WHEREAS, the President's Strategy promotes national and community-based programs, such as the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, that are evidence-based and work to prevent substance use in schools, on college campuses, and in the workplace because preventing drug use before it begins – particularly among young people – is the most cost-effective way to reduce drug use and its consequences in America; and

WHEREAS, since early detection and treatment of a substance abuse problem are more effective and less costly than dealing with a chronic substance use disorder, the President's Strategy works to expand programs like Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), supports education and legislation aimed at providing health care professionals with continuing education and training on addiction and safe prescribing practices for painkillers, and seeks to reduce opioid overdose deaths by expanding comprehensive overdose prevention measures; and

WHEREAS, the Strategy details actions to implement the Affordable Care Act, which makes access to treatment a new reality for millions of Americans as it ends discrimination by requiring insurance companies to cover treatment for substance use disorders; expanding treatment and reentry services for those incarcerated; and targeting expansion of care for populations with an unmet need for substance abuse treatment, including veterans, college and university students, and Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration's Strategy supports the lifelong process of recovery by working to lift the stigma associated with addiction and reviewing

and reforming laws and regulations that impede recovery from addiction so that millions of responsible and healthy Americans in recovery can fully engage in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the President’s Strategy acknowledges that the United States cannot arrest or incarcerate its way out of the drug problem and must take a “smart on crime” approach using innovative criminal justice reforms, including specialized Drug Courts, to break the cycle of drug use, crime, arrest, and incarceration by diverting non-violent drug offenders into treatment instead of prison,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the threat that drug use poses to our society and supports the President’s National Drug Control Strategy as a part of his larger effort to build an America built to last.

Projected Cost: Unknown

HIV DISCRIMINATION AND CRIMINALIZATION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been a national leader on strategies to address HIV/AIDS for three decades, establishing in 1984 an HIV/AIDS Program and implementing a HIV/AIDS Prevention Grants Program with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) released by the White House includes a statement on the problem and public health consequences of HIV criminalization and notes that many state HIV-specific criminal laws reflect long-outdated misperceptions of HIV's modes and relative risks of transmission; that criminal law has been unjustly used in the United States to prosecute and disproportionately sentence people with HIV; and that legislators reconsider whether these laws further the public interest and support public health approaches to preventing and treating HIV; and

WHEREAS, nearly all HIV-specific criminal laws do not consider correct and consistent condom use and effective antiretroviral therapy that reduces the risk of HIV transmission to near-zero as evidence of a lack of intent or ability to harm; and behaviors that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have negligible risk of transmitting HIV, such as spitting and biting, have resulted in sentences as long as 35 years; and

WHEREAS, sound criminal justice and public health policy toward people living with HIV is consistent with an evidence-based approach to disease control and research demonstrates that HIV-specific laws do not reduce transmission or increase disclosure and may discourage HIV testing; and

WHEREAS, The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, the Centers for Disease Control, and the United Nations Global Commission on HIV and the Law have conducted extensive scientific research and evidence reviews, finding that public health is endangered by HIV discrimination and criminalization and calling for comprehensive revision of state and federal laws and regulations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the elimination of HIV-specific criminal laws and implementation of approaches to HIV within the civil and criminal justice systems that are consistent with the treatment of similar health and safety risks; and supports legislation, such as the REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act, that advances these objectives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS for ending federal and state HIV-specific criminal laws, prosecutions, and civil commitments.

Projected Cost: Unknown

FURTHERING THE URBAN FOOD REVOLUTION

WHEREAS, Mayors around the country are implementing creative local food policies that improve health, create jobs and economic activity and enhance the quality of life of our cities; and

WHEREAS, too many American families, urban, suburban and rural, are still struggling to put nutritious meals on the table for their families; and

WHEREAS, there is great potential for an urban-rural partnership that works together for comprehensive food legislation that combats hunger, promotes economic opportunity and builds linkages between farmers and consumers; and

WHEREAS, Mayors recognize the many important potential benefits from the farm and food policy support in the reauthorization of the “Farm Bill”, including federal nutrition assistance programs, access to healthy foods for under-resourced communities, promotion of environmental stewardship and protection of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, Senator Sherrod Brown and Representative Chellie Pingree have once again introduced the “Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act” to support local food systems; and

WHEREAS, Mayors continue to express a need for strategic focus through a lead point of contact within the US Department of Agriculture for the growing number of creative city-based initiatives which promote a healthy food system, ranging from urban agriculture and aquaculture, greenhouses, business incubators and a low/no cost program to provide electronic benefit transfer readers in order to expand SNAP purchases at farmers markets; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships can significantly improve access to healthy food and job development, from efforts in Pennsylvania, California, New York and other states to expand inner-city retail food to new state legislation submitted in Massachusetts by the City of Boston which would create a Food Innovations Trust Fund for economic development; and

WHEREAS, the federal Healthy Food Financing Initiative has increased access to healthy food in America’s cities; and

WHEREAS, a growing number of charitable and social venture organizations are also committing more resources to urban food system development,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conferences of Mayors supports the development of a comprehensive national food policy, that feeds the hungry, supports the small farmer in urban and rural areas, promotes access to healthy and affordable foods for all residents, including

strengthening incentives and infrastructure to encourage more local food production and distribution, environmentally sustainable farming practices, better access to fresh foods and investment in programs providing healthy food, expansion of programs that help communities invest in retail markets, food-based businesses and increased access to farmers markets and farm to cafeteria programs that bring the freshest, local grown food into school lunch programs, hospitals and other institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports the promotion of food security through the passage of a Farm Bill that maintains sufficient levels of funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). All Americans deserve a decent meal on their tables; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports the continued funding of the Healthy Food Financing Initiative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports preserving and expanding existing USDA programs such as the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Snack program in schools, and programs that advocate for the increased use of Electronic Benefits at farmers markets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors support the establishment of an “Office of Urban Agriculture” to help lend strategic focus to systems innovations in cities across America and provide mayors and city officials with an information resource and an advocate for building partnerships – within USDA, with other relevant federal agencies, with philanthropic donors and social venture investors, and with rural interests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges the inclusion of provisions of the “Local Farms, Food and Jobs Act” that support and strengthen local food systems and increase access to healthy and affordable food, especially in low-income and under-resourced communities.

Projected costs: unknown

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR INVESTING IN HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that the early years of a child's life are formative; characterized by immense growth - cognitive, linguistic, and social - and that the pace of this growth is significantly impacted by the child's environment; and

WHEREAS, children who attend high quality early childhood education programs demonstrate higher academic performance in math and reading during elementary school, are less likely to require special education services, less likely to have to repeat a grade, and more likely to graduate high school; and

WHEREAS, research shows that full-day kindergartners demonstrate higher academic achievement in later grades; better attendance in kindergarten and through the primary grades; faster gains on literacy and language measures; enhanced social, emotional and behavior development; and reduced retention and remediation rates; and

WHEREAS, research from pre-k programs in the states of Michigan, New Jersey, and Oklahoma shows that children who receive high-quality early education are better equipped to compete with their peers by the 3rd grade; and

WHEREAS, children who attend kindergarten for a full day are more prepared for school; they do better with the transition to first grade, show significant gains in school socialization and are equipped with stronger learning skills; and

WHEREAS, children from low-income families enter kindergarten performing, on average, 12-14 months behind their peers in pre-reading and language skills; and

WHEREAS, by third grade, children from low-income families reading below grade level are six times less likely to graduate from high school than children who are reading proficiently; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks 28th in the world for the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled in early education programs and 25th in public funding for early learning; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, approximately 28 percent of 4-year olds are enrolled in state-funded pre-K programs; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, approximately 65 percent of 4-year olds from families in the bottom two income brackets (bottom 40 percent) are enrolled in pre-K

(public or private) compared to 90% of 4-year olds from the highest income bracket (top 20 percent); and

WHEREAS, preschool programs nationwide vary dramatically in terms of quality, curriculum, and organization; and

WHEREAS, only 30 percent of 4-year olds are enrolled in a quality early childhood education program; and

WHEREAS, high quality early childhood education is proven to be a sound public investment; and

WHEREAS, research shows that for every public dollar spent on high quality early childhood education, taxpayers save an average of \$7 in future costs through increased workforce productivity and savings on public assistance and a reduction in crime; and

WHEREAS, parents, teachers, and principals nationwide agree that we need to do more to guarantee that children from disadvantaged families enter kindergarten with the same level of educational readiness as their peers from affluent families; and

WHEREAS, the members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors have previously adopted resolutions that support an increased public investment in early childhood education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities:

- Aim to provide access for all 3 and 4-year olds from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line to a high-quality, full-day early childhood education; and
- Aim to provide funding for year-round, high quality early childhood education to prevent summer learning loss; and
- Aim to provide access to all 3 and 4-year olds to attend a high quality early childhood education, prioritizing access for children from low- and moderate-income families to close the achievement gap before it begins; and
- Create consistent standards for quality in early childhood education programs across all states, including: a full-day program; well-trained & effective teachers; low adult-to-child ratios and small class sizes; a rigorous curriculum that includes developmentally appropriate strategies and fosters a lifelong love of learning; and effective evaluation systems

based on child learning and development, and the quality of the child-teacher interactions; and

- Develop early childhood education standards that are aligned with Common Core Kindergarten standards in order to promote kindergarten readiness nationwide; and
- Attract and retain a robust early childhood workforce by establishing salaries that are competitive with K-12 educators and reflect the importance of the profession, and by providing professional development; and
- Ensure states and/or cities develop accountability systems for monitoring early childhood education quality and supporting struggling early childhood education programs; and
- Ensure states and/or cities collect and publicly report data and information, including child outcome data, and other indicators of quality, about their early childhood education programs; and
- Ensure early learning options and quality ratings are readily accessible to parents to empower them to make informed decisions in choosing the best early childhood education for their child.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF PRESCHOOL FOR ALL FOUR YEAR OLDS IN LOW AND MODERATE INCOME FAMILIES; IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDED CARE FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS THROUGH EARLY HEAD START AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS; IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FUNDING TO EXTEND AND EXPAND CURRENT FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN HOME VISITATION PROGRAM; ALL OF WHICH ARE PAID FOR AN INCREASE IN TOBACCO EXCISE TAXES

WHEREAS, fewer than three in ten 4-year olds are enrolled in high quality early childhood education programs today; and

WHEREAS, the United States devotes less public spending to early learning as a percentage of GDP than 24 countries; and

WHEREAS, children from low-income families start kindergarten 12 to 14 months behind their peers in language development and pre-reading; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that the early years in a child's life is critical to brain development and early education programs build critical academic, social and cognitive skills which are necessary for physical, emotional and social development; and

WHEREAS, high-quality preschool has been proven to reduce placements in special education, reduce grade retention, boost graduation rates, decrease teen pregnancy rates, and increase the odds of holding a job over the long term; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program provides at home visits for up to 570,000 families each year; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program has been proven to reduce problems such as emergency room hospitalizations, intensive care for victims of trauma, child welfare investigations, violent crime and juvenile delinquency; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program helps families with appropriate prenatal care, improve family diet, and reduces use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances; and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposes increasing the federal excise tax on cigarettes from \$1.01 per pack to \$1.95 per pack and that increase would be indexed for inflation after 2014; and

WHEREAS, the effect of cigarette taxes on smoking has been studied extensively; and increasing real price of cigarettes by 10% reduces the number of young adult smokers by 3.5 percent and reduces the number of kids who smoke by 7 percent; and

WHEREAS, smoking costs the United States \$96 billion in medical costs and \$97 billion in lost productivity each; and

WHEREAS, cigarette smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke kill an estimated 443,000 people in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 8.6 million people in the United States have chronic illnesses related to smoking; and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposes to create a continuum of high-quality early learning services for children beginning at birth and through age five by providing early childhood education for all four year olds in low and moderate income families, for expanded care for infants and toddlers through Early Head Start and Child Care programs and additional mandatory funding to extend and expand current federal investments in home visitation programs funded by an increase in the tobacco excise tax,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports providing early childhood education for all four year olds in low and moderate income families; the expanded child care of infants and toddlers through Early Head Start and Child Care programs; and additional mandatory funding to extend and expand current federal investments in home visitation program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to pass legislation in which revenues generated by a tax increase in the per-pack price of cigarettes be used specifically for the following activities:

- chronic disease prevention and control;
- medical research, particularly research related to the addictive and other effects of tobacco on the human body;
- child health programs, early childhood education and home visitation program; and
- with priority funding of early childhood education and home visitation programs.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ARTS AND HEALING

WHEREAS, according to the 2009 report, Arts in Healthcare by the Global Alliance for Arts & Health, the creative arts in health and wellness demonstrate the positive impact these services have on patient outcomes and healthcare cost savings; and

WHEREAS, creative arts therapies have been used as effective interventions in comprehensive mental health care programs for more than 70 years, using various art forms as a means of communication and expression; and

WHEREAS, the Arts in Healthcare report demonstrates that creative arts in healthcare interventions can contribute to the following positive outcomes when services are integrated into medical treatment and community prevention and wellness programs, including reduced lengths of hospital stays, decreased need for multiple medical visits, reduced levels of depression and stress, decreased need for use of sedatives during medical procedures and decreased use of medical interventions covered by Medicare among the aging; and

WHEREAS, creative arts therapies can help facilitate the purposes of the Mental Health in Schools Act by providing school-based mental health services and support; by providing comprehensive staff development for school and community service personnel working in the school; and by providing training for children with mental health disorders, for parents, siblings, and other family members of such children, and for concerned members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the creative arts therapies offer supportive services to students, families, and personnel within the educational community. Therapists are able to positively impact mental health by utilizing non-threatening arts interventions to address inappropriate social behaviors, improve communication and socialization, provide successful tools to decrease barriers to learning, increase student compliance, and enhance academic performance; and

WHEREAS, treatment outcomes of creative arts therapies include strengthened coping strategies, successful and safe emotional release, increased verbalization, reduced muscle tension, and improved group cohesiveness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors acknowledges the benefits of incorporating creative arts therapies into all forms of health care as a method to improve the quality and experience of health care delivery and to lower costs; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to support funding for creative arts in healthcare research priorities within the federal agencies involved with the Arts and Human

Development Interagency Task Force, including the National Institutes of Health, Administration on Aging, and the Department of Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support the Mental Health in Schools Act, S.195, sponsored by Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) and H.R. 628 sponsored by Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA), which will provide a comprehensive system for education and healthcare providers, such as creative arts therapists, to improve access to mental health services and support for students, families, school personnel, and communities.

Projected Costs: Unknown

PROMOTION OF INFLUENZA VACCINATION AMONG MEDICALLY VULNERABLE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND HISPANIC POPULATIONS

WHEREAS, for the last 30 years the severity of the influenza seasons has differed substantially year to year with a low of 3,000 to a high of 49,000 (CDC, 2013); and

WHEREAS, each year in the United States on average 5 to 20 percent of the population can be infected with the flu, more than 20,000 people may be hospitalized during the flu season (CDC, 2013); and

WHEREAS, the African American (34%) community continues to have lower vaccination rates in comparison to the general population (CDC, 2013); and

WHEREAS, the African American bear a disproportionate burden of those diseases that lead to flu-related health complications (NIMHHD, 2012); and

WHEREAS, Hispanic adults have the lowest vaccination rate among all adults (29.5%); and

WHEREAS, disparities in exposure, susceptibility, and access to timely and effective treatment for influenza have been documented with Hispanic populations (HHS, 2012); and

WHEREAS, disparities in chronic diseases/conditions such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease prevail within Hispanic populations which lead to flu-related health complications (OMH, 2012); and

WHEREAS, the National Influenza Vaccination Disparities Partnership has been launched by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention specifically to address flu-related health disparities within the African American and Hispanic communities and to promote annual flu vaccinations for everyone six months and older,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The US Conference of Mayors, hereby proclaims the influenza season for 2013-2014 to be a concern of national importance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The US Conference of Mayors urges all citizens to participate in local flu vaccinations drives and promotional activities planned here forth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The US Conference of Mayors will broaden awareness about influenza vaccination coverage disparities within the African American and Hispanic communities by generating conversations that highlight the benefits of flu vaccines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our collected body recognizes the contribution of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Influenza Vaccination Disparities Partnership, and further urges Congress and Administration to provide the necessary resources to support this initiative.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORT FOR URBAN AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, fish is a highly nutritious animal protein, and the American Heart Association and the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommend eating at least two servings of fish (seafood) each week; and

WHEREAS, approximately 25% of world's marine capture fisheries are considered over-exploited and an additional 50% are fully exploited and may not be able to sustainably meet the demand for fish as the global population continues to grow rapidly; and

WHEREAS, worldwide aquaculture production has expanded at an average rate of 8.8% per year over the last three decades while aquaculture growth in the United States has remained flat since 2003; and

WHEREAS, 2012 was the first year in which world fish supply from aquaculture was projected to surpass supply from wild fisheries; and

WHEREAS, the United States currently holds a nearly eleven-billion dollar trade deficit in fish and other seafood products; and

WHEREAS, the United States imports about ninety percent of its seafood supply, half of which is from aquaculture, and many of the 125 countries from which most products are imported do not have comparably rigorous environmental and safety standards for aquaculture production; and

WHEREAS, growing demand for aquaculture products signals a significant opportunity to promote aquaculture in the United States in support of economic development, jobs creation, and a safe and environmentally sustainable fish supply; and

WHEREAS, many major cities across the country, including Chicago, Milwaukee, and Los Angeles are supporting urban aquaculture with aquaculture and aquaponics projects; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Organic Program is currently developing new national organic regulations for aquaculture products similar to those for livestock products and other food items,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges additional federal funding be committed toward research, development, marketing and promotion of aquaculture, to support and encourage a thriving US aquaculture industry able to better sustainably support domestic demand for fish; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors supports greater federal, state and local investment in the development of innovative aquaculture feeds which are produced in an environmentally sustainably way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges the development of national organic standards for aquaculture products, and widespread promotion and marketing of organic aquaculture production; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges cities to examine regulations and zoning ordinances to determine the feasibility for local urban aquaculture development, and streamline, update and modify regulations, codes and ordinances where applicable to encourage increased aquaculture production to better and more affordably provide healthy aquatic animal protein to their residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the US Conference of Mayors urges cities to develop markets for sustainably produced aquaculture, so that their residents may have greater access to healthy and sustainably produced aquatic animal protein.

Projected Cost: Unknown

WELLNESS IN REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, improving the health and wellness of residents of the United States is a top priority of elected leaders on local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the healthcare system is primarily focused on curing illness and treating symptoms, as opposed to preventing illness and increasing wellness; and

WHEREAS, without a shift to more prevention-based health care measures, the cost of American health care is estimated to grow to \$4.2 trillion in 2019, up from \$2.6 trillion in 2010 (1); and

WHEREAS, with increased rates of obesity and other preventable chronic diseases derived from poor nutrition and inadequate exercise, children born today are at risk for having a shorter life expectancy than their parents for the first time in the history of the United States (2); and

WHEREAS, Americans typically spend more than 23 hours a day indoors (3); and

WHEREAS, many building materials contain formaldehyde and other toxic VOCs, leading to levels of pollutants inside that are often 2 to 5 times higher than outdoors (3); and

WHEREAS, cities across the country recognize the importance of clean air and water; and

WHEREAS, many people suffer from impaired sleep, altered mood, diminished alertness, and reduced rate of learning as a result of insufficient light indoors during the day and excessive light at night; and

WHEREAS, many people suffer from allergies, asthma and other upper respiratory challenges due to poor indoor air quality, mold, and dust from poor cleaning practices and improper ventilation: and

WHEREAS, people around the country are rapidly trying to respond to these growing health concerns by practicing different forms of preventative medicine, making the wellness industry one of the fastest-growing industries in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has developed a Strategy for Action for Advancing Healthy Housing that encourages federal agencies to take preemptive actions that will help reduce the number of American homes with health and safety hazards. This cross agency effort led by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Surgeon General's Office, The

Department of Energy and other agencies, represents a bold new vision for addressing the nation's health and economic burdens caused by preventable hazards associated with the home (5); and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has been a leader in promoting healthy living through the Mayor's Healthy Cities Campaign,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages buildings to use a combination of criteria and features that will enhance the well-being of occupants and address growing preventable health concerns and costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors encourages buildings to follow the WELL Building Standard or any other similar standard that uses a multidisciplinary guide for the design, construction, and management of buildings of all types. This Standard is the culmination of the latest in evidence-based design and leading-edge approaches that has emerged from a unique collaboration between world-class medical research institutions, the real estate sector, and the architecture industry. It will address the interior living environment through healthy materials and building technologies and encourage healthy behaviors. Some of the Standard's intentions are to:

- Remove harmful contaminants from the air and water and from surfaces where food is prepared; and
- Prevent and combat mold, microbes, and viruses that can propagate in water supplies, ductworks, and interior building surfaces; and
- Promote best practices for ventilation, air quality, humidity and thermal comfort; and
- Reinforce the body's natural daily rhythm, thereby improving sleep, bolstering immune function, and increasing energy levels; and
- Provide protection against noise pollution and other factors that can produce stress in the body; and
- Deliver education to encourage healthy eating and promote physical activity.

Projected Cost: Unknown

A CALL TO ACTION TO REDUCE SUMMER LEARNING LOSS AMONG OUR NATION'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WHEREAS, low-income students across the country who lack stimulating summer activities lose two months of grade-level equivalency in reading every summer, and all students lose two months of math skills; and

WHEREAS, summer learning loss hits children from low-income families particularly hard, with the cumulative losses over the years exacerbating achievement gaps between them and their more affluent peers and increasing the likelihood they will drop out of high school; and

WHEREAS, students who lose too much ground over the summer in the early grades often fail to master reading by the end of third grade (reducing summer learning loss is therefore a core pillar of the comprehensive strategy adopted by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for ensuring that children learn to read by the end of third grade so they can read to learn in later grades); and

WHEREAS, summer learning loss can lead to placement in less rigorous high school courses, higher high school dropout rates, and lower college attendance; and

WHEREAS, a Johns Hopkins University study of Baltimore City Public School students found that about two-thirds of the ninth grade achievement gap in reading between lower- and higher- income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years; and

WHEREAS, children living in poverty also face hunger and food insecurity in the summer (six out of every seven low-income students who receive free- and reduced-price lunches during the school year lose access to them in the summer); and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of teachers polled report that they spend at least three to four weeks re-teaching material from the previous year at the beginning of each school year. Thus summer learning loss affects every child in the classroom and undermines efforts to improve school performance, since it slows down instruction; and

WHEREAS, engaging summer learning programs that focus on academic activities, as well as recreation and cultural enrichment, can stop the summer slide and actually contribute to academic gains for low-income children; and

WHEREAS, libraries, book distribution programs and innovative technology platforms can put reading materials in the hands of children during the summer and help keep their reading skills fresh; and

WHEREAS, cities are in an excellent position to coordinate and expand access to summer opportunities by bringing together schools, community organizations, libraries, recreation centers, and other partners to ensure children are engaged in enriching activities during the summer,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the National Summer Learning Association's efforts to promote Summer Learning Day and to provide tools for cities that want to expand access and increase the quality of summer learning programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses and supports the efforts by the 125 communities in the Grade-Level Reading Communities Network to address summer learning loss, along with reducing chronic absence, and increasing school readiness, (the Campaign is dedicated to improving early literacy by supporting community solutions to these three widespread, but solvable challenges); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon its members to support efforts to reduce summer learning loss, including those to:

- Raise public awareness and concern about the dire impact of the summer slide;
- Scan city and community programs and resources to determine how much access children from low-income families have to engaging summer learning programs, books and learning technology platforms;
- Bring together city agencies and community partners to broaden access to summer learning programs in subsequent years; and
- Support efforts to implement high-quality summer learning programs and integrate them seamlessly with the school year.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION TO ERADICATE BULLYING FROM AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, more than 13 million American kids a year are affected by bullying, with some driven to suicide; and

WHEREAS, teens in grades 6 through 10 are the most likely to be involved in activities related to bullying; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30 percent of students in the U.S. are involved in bullying on a regular basis, either as a victim, bully or both; and

WHEREAS, mayors are the civic leaders of the nation's cities and can be tremendously impactful to effect positive change in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Bully Project, the social action campaign inspired by and developed in conjunction with the film "Bully", with the support of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, has successfully reached its goal of reaching one million students and educators across the country – building resolve for local communities to come together to improve school climate and create safer schools; and

WHEREAS, bullying still impacts far too many of our nation's youth – about 1 in 4 children in the United States are bullied on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, mayors across the country have and continue to raise awareness about the issue of bullying and resolve to double their efforts to help eradicate this problem,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports anti-bullying activities such as The Bully Project and 1 Million Kids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that for National Bullying Prevention Month, October 2013, mayors across the nation pledge now to convene screenings and discussions with stakeholders in their communities to send a strong national message and drive real change at the local level; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors will do all they can to call attention to the issue of bullying in schools, and work to develop city-wide programs to combat the problem of bullying to ensure that all students have access to a safe and secure educational environment.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF RAISING AWARENESS OF THE DANGERS OF “THE CHOKING GAME”

WHEREAS, the “Choking Game” is played by our teenagers with deadly results killing over 800 children in the last couple of years; and

WHEREAS, it’s been reported that over 75% of our children know about the game and 40% of them think it is safe to play; and

WHEREAS, a recent study in Oregon had 20% reporting that they are playing this deadly game currently; and

WHEREAS, it’s been reported that 90% of the children have learned about this game from YouTube of their peers; and

WHEREAS, it’s been reported that 93% of parents are unaware of the activity until they have lost a child,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages all Mayors to familiarize themselves with the dangers of the “Choking Game” and educate their residents on the signs and statistics affecting our children.

Projected Cost: None

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING

SUPPORT FOR CDBG

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, for every \$1.00 of CDBG funding invested in a project another \$3.55 is leveraged from other sources; and

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

WHEREAS, between FY2005-FY2012 CDBG created or retained 302,622 local jobs; and

WHEREAS, between FY2005-FY2012 CDBG has assisted over one million low-and moderate-income homeowners rehabilitate their homes, provided down payment and closing cost assistance to qualified home buyers, and assisted homeowners through lead-based paint abatement; and

WHEREAS, between FY2005-FY2012 CDBG-funded infrastructure projects have benefited over 30 million Americans nationwide, by providing a suitable living and environment that includes sanitary water and sewer systems, safe streets and transit-ways, improved drainage systems, and other improvements that support our communities and help grow local economies; and

WHEREAS, between FY2005-FY2012 CDBG has provided public services such as employment training, meals and other services to the elderly, services to help abused and neglected children, assistance to local food banks, among others to over 95 million low-and moderate income households nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the Administration would reduce CDBG formula funding to \$2.8 billion in FY2014; and

WHEREAS, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development cut CDBG from \$3.0 billion to \$1.6 billion in FY2014; and

WHEREAS, CDBG formula funding for FY2013 (in the Continuing Resolution) prior to the sequestration cut was \$3.3 billion; and

WHEREAS, the FY2014 Budget proposes to amend the Community Development Block Grant statute to include a funding threshold of approximately \$350,000 for communities to receive formula funding directly from HUD and it would eliminate the "grandfathering" of metropolitan cities and urban counties who fall below the population level at which they initially qualified; and

WHEREAS, HUD has indicated that approximately 340 cities would lose direct funding under the threshold,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports CDBG formula funding for FY2014 at least at \$3.3 billion; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors is opposed to the CDBG reforms funding threshold and the elimination of grandfathering proposed in the FY2014 Federal Budget.

Projected Cost: \$3.3 billion

IN OPPOSITION TO A DRAWDOWN IN CDBG PROGRAM FUNDING

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provides Communities with resources to address a wide range of unique community development needs; and

WHEREAS, CDBG has provided support for purposes such as the development of affordable housing, public works and infrastructure maintenance, the provision of social services to the most vulnerable, and the creation of jobs; and

WHEREAS, that flexibility has allowed local governments to address the most urgent challenges and needs in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the CDBG program has provided support to more than 1200 unites of local government and made a difference in the lives of millions of people and their communities across the Nation; and

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

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has recommended a \$200 million drawdown of CDBG program funding it is proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Budget to instead dedicate that funding to the Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative; and

WHEREAS, local governments depend upon flexibility of the CDBG program in this time of economic recovery and the diminishment of these critical funds would cause further distress,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to maintain the current level of funding for the CDBG program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges that any Neighborhood Stabilization Initiative activities should be supported by new funds and not a drawdown from CDBG.

Projected Cost: Costs to be determined by the FY14 appropriations process.

IN SUPPORT OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, sustainable communities are places that provide a variety of housing and transportation choices for their citizens, with destinations close to home; and

WHEREAS, sustainable communities tend to have lower transportation costs, reduce air pollution and storm water runoff, decrease infrastructure costs, preserve historic properties and sensitive lands, save people time in traffic, be more economically resilient and meet market demand for different types of housing at different price points; and

WHEREAS, since 2009, an interagency collaboration between the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Department of Transportation (DOT), and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) called the Partnership for Sustainable Communities has been working to help communities nationwide improve access to affordable housing, increase transportation options, and lower transportation costs while protecting the environment; and

WHEREAS, the success of HUD's Sustainable Communities initiative is demonstrated by the overwhelming number of applications HUD received for it when program funding was available and the extent to which the Sustainable Communities concept is being adopted by other agencies; and

WHEREAS, HUD's Sustainable Communities initiative received \$100 million in federal funding for FY11, but received no federal funding in both FY12 and FY 13; and

WHEREAS, for FY14, HUD is requesting \$75 million in Integrated Planning and Investment Strategy Grants to more effectively use existing federal dollars and to better coordinate housing, land use, and transportation investments; and

WHEREAS, in order to more effectively target federal resources, in the proposed FY14 budget, HUD intends to rebrand the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities as the "Office of Economic Resilience," and house it within the existing Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD),

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the President's proposed Integrated Planning and Investment Strategy Grants initiative and applauds the Partnership for Sustainable Communities for working to improve the economic competitiveness and vitality of cities across the country.

Projected Cost: \$75 million for Integrated Planning and Investment Strategy Grants.
Other funding to be determined by the FY14 appropriations process.

SUPPORT FOR THE HOME PROGRAM

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

WHEREAS, local and state governments used HOME for affordable housing production and rehabilitation, preservation, and rental and homeownership assistance; and

WHEREAS, from 1992, states and localities have used HOME funds to produce 460,692 home buyer homes, 423,154 rental homes, and 212,100 rehabilitated home buyer homes; and

WHEREAS, HOME has provided rental assistance to 264,715 families; and

WHEREAS, HOME funding leverages more than \$4 from private and public resources for every \$1 of HOME; and

WHEREAS, over its 20 year history, HOME has leveraged an additional \$100.2 billion in affordable housing funds; and

WHEREAS, HOME is also an excellent job program, creating or protecting 18,000 jobs for every \$1 billion of HOME funding; and

WHEREAS, HOME has been severely cut by 41 percent since FY2011, from \$1.6 billion to the FY2013 level of \$948 million; and

WHEREAS, HUD's FY2014 Budget proposes to fund HOME at \$950 million; and

WHEREAS, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development cut HOME from \$948 million to \$700 million in FY2014; and

WHEREAS, nearly 8.5 million very low-income families who do not receive government housing assistance pay more than half their monthly income for rent, lived in substandard housing, or both; and

WHEREAS, as the number of families with worst case housing needs continue to rise, with the number up 2.6 million, or 43.5 percent, since, 2007,

NOW, THEREFOR BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to restore the HOME program's funding in FY2014 to at least \$1.6 billion.

Projected Cost: \$1.6 billion

SEQUESTER IMPACTS ON PUBLIC HOUSING PROGRAMS AND THE SECTION 8 HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM

WHEREAS, public housing provides safe, decent, publicly owned, and affordable housing to approximately 1.1 million families who cannot afford or will not be served by housing in the private market, nearly 60 percent have a head of household who is elderly, disabled, or both; and 40 percent are families with children; and

WHEREAS, public housing serves families with an average household income of approximately \$13,000 and more than 70 percent of households living in public housing have incomes less than 30 percent of the area median income (AMI). By comparison, the median family income in the United States is \$60,000; and

WHEREAS, sequestration will degrade the ability of PHAs to operate the public housing program; and

WHEREAS, with sequestration and the 0.2 percent across the board funding reduction, the proration level for public housing operating assistance will be 82 percent. A proration of 82 percent will force housing authorities to significantly restructure their operations in an effort to remain viable; and

WHEREAS, a low funding level will result in thousands of public housing units at risk of being taken off line due to maintenance backlogs and the inability of housing authorities to afford utility expenses. Families living in these units will be placed at risk of losing assistance; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the sequestration, housing authorities have begun to cut back their workforce, which will lead to increased response times for all activities, including addressing simple maintenance issues, turning around vacant units, and reviewing applications and making eligibility determinations; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Fund program is the only source of federal funding available to PHAs dedicated to addressing their properties' modernization needs. The current housing crisis underscores the broad impact housing has on people's lives; the importance to families and communities of quality, stable, affordable rental housing has never been more apparent; and

WHEREAS, the most recent capital needs study of the public housing stock, completed in 2010, estimated the backlog of unmet need at approximately \$26 billion, or \$23,365 per unit. Available funding is vastly insufficient—with appropriations at less than half the amount needed—to meet accruing needs of more than \$4 billion per year. Under the strain of this backlog, and without financing tools commonly available to other forms of affordable housing, the public housing inventory loses an average of 10,000 units annually through demolitions or dispositions; and

WHEREAS, more than half of the Nation’s Public Housing stock was constructed prior to 1970 and now require significant rehabilitation work to ensure that they remain safe, decent, and sustainable housing. Without substantial investment in the inventory through the Capital Fund program, the loss of affordable housing units due to obsolescence and disrepair will accelerate; and

WHEREAS, the recent Worst Case Housing Needs report shows the number of renter households with worst case needs has increased 2.57 million since 2007 to 8.48 million households in 2011 – a 43.5 percent increase. The significant increase underscores what has been the case since well before the recent recession, namely, that extremely low-income renters face the most severe housing shortage and cost burden of any Americans; and

WHEREAS, worst case needs are defined as renters with very low incomes (below half the median in their areas) who do not receive government housing assistance and who either paid more than half of their monthly incomes in rent, lived in substandard conditions, or both; and

WHEREAS, a leading cause of homelessness and worst-case housing needs is the lack of affordable housing available to the lowest-income households. For low-income families, public housing is essential to the prevention of homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Choice Voucher program is the federal government's largest program assisting 2.2 million economically vulnerable families, including elderly families, families with disabilities, formerly homeless veterans, and families with children to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market; and

WHEREAS, many families assisted by the Housing Choice Voucher program formerly experienced worst-case housing needs and without the benefit of this program would be at immediate risk of homelessness. Of the families currently receiving Housing Choice Voucher assistance, 78 percent are extremely low-income, with incomes at or below 30 percent of the area median income, 40 percent have a disabled head of household, and 18 percent are elderly families; and

WHEREAS, the Administration estimates that sequestration will impact housing voucher renewals, putting approximately 125,000 very low income families at risk of having their rental assistance terminated due to insufficient funding; and

WHEREAS, terminating families from the Housing Choice Voucher program also impacts the private sector landlords who participate in the program. The housing assistance payments landlords receive help them to meet mortgage payments, local tax obligations, utility expenses, and to maintain their properties in good physical condition; and

WHEREAS, sequestration will degrade the ability of private market landlords to continue to participate in the Housing Choice Voucher program; and

WHEREAS, since sequester impacted families do not have the resources to make up the difference in rent, private market landlords will find their ability to meet their own financial responsibilities seriously compromised,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to provide adequate funding for public housing and housing voucher rental assistance programs to ensure the effects of sequestration and other budget cuts do not destroy the safety net of programs serving the most vulnerable of our citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges the Administration to provide administrative and regulatory relief to help housing authorities mitigate the harmful effects of sequestration and inadequate funding levels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact federal rental assistance reform legislation since the savings and efficiencies it would create are urgently needed. The reform legislation, which includes Section 8 rental assistance reform and expansion of the Moving to Work program, will help ease administrative burdens for housing authorities and owners, deliver fairer and more efficient assistance to low-income families, provide new tools to leverage private capital for affordable housing preservation and development and encourage self-sufficiency for low-income families.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ENDING HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

WHEREAS, men and women who served in the United States armed services have made extraordinary sacrifices to serve this nation and should not experience homelessness; and

WHEREAS, ending homelessness for Veterans and their families is critical to Mayors and cities as it will reduce the inefficient usage of costly health care services and emergency shelters, as well as enhance the ability of Veterans to positively contribute to their communities and increase economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by 2015 is a national priority that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its federal partners, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), have taken decisive action to achieve; and

WHEREAS, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness on a single night decreased by 18 percent between 2010 and 2012 due to unprecedented collaboration and investment in effective strategies; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, there were an estimated 62,619 homeless Veterans on a single night in January 2012 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, some communities have demonstrated even greater reductions in Veterans homelessness and will end homelessness among Veterans through decisive and collaborative leadership that adopts evidence-informed practices such as Housing First, strategically uses data, effectively targets resources that match services with individual needs, drives community collaborations, and taps other public resources such as Medicaid, Social Security, and public schools; and

WHEREAS, Mayors who are in the front lines dealing with homelessness in their communities can be significant and critical partners in the goal of ending Veterans homelessness by 2015,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors re-commits to the goal of ending homelessness among the nation's Veterans by 2015, as described in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors affirms the value of recent federal investments in effective programs, such as the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program and the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Program; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that Mayors should contact their Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) directors to establish a partnership between their city and the VAMC that integrates and aligns the VAMC's Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans with the community's plans to end homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Mayors should work in partnership with their local VAMCs and homeless crisis response system to do the following:

- Identify homeless and at-risk Veteran families and link them to needed services; and
- Adopt a Veteran-centric approach that provides the right intervention at the right time to make resources go further and improve outcomes; and
- Implement evidenced-informed strategies that return Veterans and their families to housing quickly such as Housing First, permanent supportive housing, and rapid re-housing; and
- Set goals and measure progress; and
- Share and use data strategically; and
- Drive community collaborations; and
- Tap mainstream services such as Medicaid and Social Security; and
- Identify housing in the community and outreach to landlords; and
- Encourage local philanthropy and businesses to participate in these efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages policies and practices in both the private and public sectors that support employment of Veterans and encourages greater access to affordable housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges comprehensive solutions and increased investments in evidenced-informed strategies by all levels of government, philanthropy, businesses, faith-based and community organizations to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION
LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities face the difficulty of having the fewest legal rights in employment and housing of any minority group in America; and

WHEREAS, the discrimination that takes place in housing and employment forces certain members of the LGBT community into the ranks of unemployment and homelessness, thus contributing to the United States socioeconomic crisis; and

WHEREAS, many within the business community believe that “employers who discriminate are at a competitive disadvantage relative to firms that do not discriminate;” and

WHEREAS, through the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is conducting a study based on the Michigan Fair Housing Commission’s statement that “Thirty percent of same-sex couples were treated negatively [based on their sexual orientation] when attempting to buy or rent property;” and

WHEREAS, all cities have a stake in making non-discrimination in employment and housing a legislative priority to enhance productivity, economic development, and human capital; and

WHEREAS, all cities can economically and socially suffer from the impacts of discrimination in housing and employment; and

WHEREAS, all cities can benefit from a more stable economy flowing from businesses and the housing market; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 500 of over 50,000 municipalities have passed ordinances preventing discrimination against same-sex couples in housing and employment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages local governments to establish non-discrimination ordinances and addendums to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports all of its constituents regardless of race, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors pledges to urge the state and federal governments to further amend and adopt the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s rule concerning

“Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity” to relate to all housing circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on governments of all sizes to adopt policies, ordinances, and bills to prohibit employment discrimination against any community due to the pivotal role of diversity in strengthening the American economy and society.

Projected Cost: None

SUPPORTING REBUILDING AMERICAN HOMEOWNERSHIP

WHEREAS, housing remains the biggest impediment to economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, over four million homes have been foreclosed upon since the housing crisis began in 2007, with a forecast of four to eight million more foreclosures over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, a substantial share of these foreclosures will come from the many millions of families trapped in higher-interest loans because their homes are “underwater,” which means the families owe more than their homes are worth; and

WHEREAS, the loss of family wealth through foreclosures and devalued homes is estimated at seven trillion dollars, or roughly \$100,000 for every homeowner in America. According to a Federal Reserve survey, 71% of the decrease in family assets between 2007 and 2010 was due to the decline in the value of housing; and

WHEREAS, mortgage-related foreclosures have resulted in an unprecedented number of not-for-sale, long-term, inadequately maintained vacant properties that contribute to an increase in crime, decrease neighboring property values, and stall recovery of the retail housing market; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2010 survey conducted by The U.S. Conference of Mayors, there are an average of 2,247 abandoned residential properties resulting from the mortgage foreclosure crisis per city, with some larger cities reporting over 10,000 such properties in their jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, families would benefit from loans that rebuild their equity more quickly or that reduce substantially their monthly payments; and

WHEREAS, the reduced rate of foreclosures that would result would strengthen communities and help to stabilize or grow housing prices, improving the home construction economy and other sectors tied to the housing market; and

WHEREAS, the greater spending power of these families would help improve the overall economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Congress should pass and the President should sign legislation to provide additional mechanisms for mortgage refinancing for homeowners who are current on their mortgage payments and meet basic underwriting standards, but find themselves still “underwater;” and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Congress should pass the Rebuilding Equity Act to offer families whose loans are guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac an opportunity to more quickly restore equity in their home.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE WHITE HOUSE “STRONG CITIES, STRONG COMMUNITIES” INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, an absence of coordination between the federal government and units of local government, in some ways, are ineffective especially in regard to economic development; and

WHEREAS, units of local government stand to benefit from greater access to federal agencies’ tools, resources, and expertise; and

WHEREAS, the “Strong Cities, Strong Communities” (SC2) Initiative seeks to redefine that the relationship between the federal government and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the SC2 Initiative aims to strengthen the capacity of local governments to develop and execute their economic vision and strategies with increased accessibility to these federal resources; and

WHEREAS, the communities that participated in the pilot and first competitive round gained federal expertise and technical assistance from a council of advisors to develop comprehensive plans for community and economic development, and to align support for implementation of those strategies; and

WHEREAS, the Administration indicated in a recent report, which assessed the accomplishments of the program on its first anniversary, that federal support has helped those communities to leverage more than approximately \$345 million in existing federal funds for economic development purposes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the continued support for the “Strong Cities, Strong Communities” Initiative that builds local capacity, reduces red-tape, and forges a more productive working relationship between federal and local government.

Projected Cost: None

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AS AN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

WHEREAS, transit has the potential to reenergize regions and communities by increasing property values and tax revenue, increasing access to jobs, and strengthening the economic outlook; and

WHEREAS, transit stations are central to placemaking efforts, enhancing the built environment that creates community, stimulating interaction, and promoting significant economic development, commonly known as transit-oriented development; and

WHEREAS, transit-oriented development brings numerous benefits, such as increased and retained property values, reduced cost of living, increased business activity, decreased auto dependence, and reduced traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, transit-oriented development that provides residential opportunities to members of all socio-economic strata, coupled with increased commercial and business development along a transit corridor provides value capture opportunities, including increased transit ridership which allows transit agencies to recover more costs from the farebox, and lease revenues from joint development; and

WHEREAS, given the economic potential of transit-oriented development, it is in the interest of States and local communities to promote transit-oriented development,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the promotion of transit-oriented development, including additional federal tax and other financial incentives, to bolster market values and boost transit ridership, leading to increased economic vibrancy and sustainable growth within cities and regions across the nation.

Projected Cost: Unknown

WELLNESS IN REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, improving the health and wellness of residents of the United States is a top priority of elected leaders on local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the healthcare system is primarily focused on curing illness and treating symptoms, as opposed to preventing illness and increasing wellness; and

WHEREAS, without a shift to more prevention-based health care measures, the cost of American health care is estimated to grow to \$4.2 trillion in 2019, up from \$2.6 trillion in 2010 (1); and

WHEREAS, with increased rates of obesity and other preventable chronic diseases derived from poor nutrition and inadequate exercise, children born today are at risk for having a shorter life expectancy than their parents for the first time in the history of the United States (2); and

WHEREAS, Americans typically spend more than 23 hours a day indoors (3); and

WHEREAS, many building materials contain formaldehyde and other toxic VOCs, leading to levels of pollutants inside that are often 2 to 5 times higher than outdoors (3); and

WHEREAS, cities across the country recognize the importance of clean air and water; and

WHEREAS, many people suffer from impaired sleep, altered mood, diminished alertness, and reduced rate of learning as a result of insufficient light indoors during the day and excessive light at night; and

WHEREAS, many people suffer from allergies, asthma and other upper respiratory challenges due to poor indoor air quality, mold, and dust from poor cleaning practices and improper ventilation; and

WHEREAS, people around the country are rapidly trying to respond to these growing health concerns by practicing different forms of preventative medicine, making the wellness industry one of the fastest-growing industries in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has developed a Strategy for Action for Advancing Healthy Housing that encourages federal agencies to take preemptive actions that will help reduce the number of American homes with health and safety

hazards. This cross agency effort led by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Surgeon General's Office, The Department of Energy and other agencies, represents a bold new vision for addressing the nation's health and economic burdens caused by preventable hazards associated with the home (4); and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has been a leader in promoting healthy living through the Mayor's Healthy Cities Campaign,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages buildings to use a combination of criteria and features that will enhance the well-being of occupants and address growing preventable health concerns and costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors encourages buildings to follow the WELL Building Standard or any other similar standard that uses a multidisciplinary guide for the design, construction, and management of buildings of all types. This Standard is the culmination of the latest in evidence-based design and leading-edge approaches that has emerged from a unique collaboration between world-class medical research institutions, the real estate sector, and the architecture industry. It will address the interior living environment through healthy materials and building technologies and encourage healthy behaviors. Some of the Standard's intentions are to:

- Remove harmful contaminants from the air and water and from surfaces where food is prepared; and
- Prevent and combat mold, microbes, and viruses that can propagate in water supplies, ductworks, and interior building surfaces; and
- Promote best practices for ventilation, air quality, humidity and thermal comfort; and
- Reinforce the body's natural daily rhythm, thereby improving sleep, bolstering immune function, and increasing energy levels; and
- Provide protection against noise pollution and other factors that can produce stress in the body; and
- Deliver education to encourage healthy eating and promote physical activity.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CRIMINAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

THE COPS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office was established within the U.S. Department of Justice in 1994 to advance the practice of community policing in America's state, local and tribal law enforcement agencies through the provision of grants and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1994, the COPS Office has provided critical assistance through funding opportunities as it has invested nearly \$14 billion to add community policing officers to the nation's streets, enhance crime fighting technology, support crime prevention initiatives, and provide training and technical assistance to help advance community policing; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office has funded approximately 124,000 additional officers to more than 13,000 of the nation's 18,000 law enforcement agencies across the country in small and large jurisdictions alike to maintain the public safety and policing capacities of cities in times of economic distress; and

WHEREAS, units of local government have experienced deep spending cuts to public safety and community policing programs and still face immense budgetary pressures as the nation emerges from an economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, following the tragic events at Sandy Hook Elementary School, there is a substantial need for School Resource Officers to carry out school based policing to ensure the safety of children and administrators; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2013 COPS Hiring Program seeks to reduce instances of homicide and gun violence in communities that have endured a high rate of those crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Year 2013 COPS Hiring Program solicitation also prioritizes the hiring of veterans who are faced with bleak job prospects upon concluding their service to this country; and

WHEREAS, the Continuing Resolution maintained a sufficient level of funding for the COPS Office in Fiscal Year 2013 prior to sequestration; and

WHEREAS, President Obama recommended an increase in funding the COPS Hiring Program in Fiscal Year 2014 and \$150 million for a new, flexible Comprehensive School Safety Program to be administered by the COPS Office; and

WHEREAS, Congress will soon deliberate matters relating to the Fiscal Year 2014 federal budget,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the President's recommendation to increase funding for the COPS Office in Fiscal Year 2014, including the establishment and funding of the new Comprehensive School Safety Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to approve the President's request and authorize an increased level of funding for the COPS Hiring Program so that the COPS Office can continue its successful efforts to provide public safety assistance to law enforcement agencies nationwide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to authorize and fund a new Comprehensive School Safety Program to be administered by the COPS Office.

Projected Cost: Funding contained in the President's proposed FY14 Budget.

**IN SUPPORT OF THE CREATION OF A COPS OFFICE TRANSITIONING TO
CONSOLIDATION GRANT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, local governments are partnering to implement collaborative approaches to community policing and public safety while some local governments have also undertaken steps to consolidate their police forces to increase efficiency in this time of budgetary stress; and

WHEREAS, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Office has provided support to America's state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies through the provision of grants and technical assistance since its establishment within the U.S. Department of Justice in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office is an advocate of innovation in community policing practices and strives to incorporate and provide support for those new strategies in its curriculum of grant programs and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, the COPS Office understands the interconnectedness of local governments in transitioning community policing efforts and the need to consolidate public safety services,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the development of a new COPS Office discretionary grant program to provide support for transitioning community policing partnerships and consolidation activities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INFORMATION SHARING AMONG LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, the sharing of criminal justice information between law enforcement and criminal justice agencies has improved substantially since September 11; and

WHEREAS, information sharing among federal, state, county, and other local law enforcement and criminal justice agencies should be the rule and not the exception; and

WHEREAS, in order for law enforcement agencies to share information, contracts are required that provide liability protections to each agency as well as security and verification commitments; and

WHEREAS, it can take months, sometimes years, to execute a memorandum of understanding between two law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Criminal Justice Information Services Division, developed a strict Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy to control the exchange of information among participating agencies,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports policy stating that no law enforcement or criminal justice agency that adheres to the requirements contained within the Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Security Policy shall suffer liability for sharing verified criminal justice information for a criminal justice purpose.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR ALL GUN SALES

WHEREAS, it is estimated that in the United States an estimated 40 percent of all gun transfers take place without going through a licensed dealer, including online and at gun shows, and this means that every year there are 6.6 million guns sold without a background check for the buyer; and

WHEREAS, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) is an effective tool to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous individuals, and this system has blocked 1.9 million illegal gun purchases and permit applications in the past two decades; and

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

WHEREAS, it is estimated that state and federal agencies have failed to report more than one million records of persons with dangerous mental illness into the NICS database; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings, Virginia and other states have submitted hundreds of thousands of new mental health records since the massacre, yet 19 states have each submitted fewer than 100 mental health records; and

WHEREAS, every day, 33 Americans are killed with guns; and

WHEREAS, evidence shows that background checks save lives, as evidenced by the facts that in 15 states that already require background checks for all gun sales, gun trafficking is 48 percent lower than in states that fail to require background checks for all gun sales; the rate of women murdered by an intimate partner with a gun was 38 percent lower than in other states; and the firearm suicide rate was 49 percent lower than in other states; and

WHEREAS, 88 percent of gun owners nationwide, including 86 percent of NRA members, support criminal background checks for all guns sales based on a 2012 survey by Douglas Schoen; and

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

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

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING AMERICANS' 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the 2nd Amendment to the United States Constitution affirms the right of Americans to bear arms; and

WHEREAS, the protections afforded to all Americans under the Bill of Rights are essential to the preservation of our democratic society; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local governments should support policies that protect the ability of citizens to exercise their Constitutional rights,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports and defends the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

WHEREAS, the United States government has long been involved in the prosecution of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, more than 20 million men, women, and children worldwide are victims of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, according to the Polaris Project, every year, human traffickers generate billions of dollars in profits by victimizing millions of people around the world, and here in the United States; and

WHEREAS, trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender, or nationality and can be men or women, young or old, American or from abroad, with or without legal status; and

WHEREAS, among them are victims brought into the United States under false pretenses, and coerced into commercial sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, over the past year, the Administration has taken steps to highlight the issue of human trafficking and to place new emphasis on combating the issue; and

WHEREAS, the first-ever White House Forum to Combat Human Trafficking was held earlier this year; and

WHEREAS, this forum brought together leaders from government, the private sector, advocates and survivors, faith leaders, law enforcement, and academia to talk about ways to combat human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, at this conference the Administration released the Federal Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this first-ever federal strategic action plan outlines steps to coordinate and strengthen services for trafficking victims in the United States; and

WHEREAS, this comprehensive, 5-year plan is action-oriented and time-specific and embraces a collaborative approach that promises to improve services for victims of trafficking throughout the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) in 2000 was a turning point in dealing with trafficking victims; and

WHEREAS, the Trafficking Survivors Protection Act was reauthorized as a part of the Violence Against Women Act; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposed FY 2014 Federal budget includes for the first time funding to support domestic survivors of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the President signed an executive order in 2012 Strengthening Protections Against Trafficking in Persons in Federal Contracts; and

WHEREAS, the FY 2013 Department of Justice budget includes language to direct the department to investigate possible changes to the law to help prevent the trafficking of commercially sexually exploited children over the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign is working to combat human trafficking through public awareness, training, victims' assistance, and law enforcement,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the Administration's ongoing efforts to combat both domestic and international human trafficking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the Federal Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Department of Justice to find ways to combat the trafficking of commercially sexually exploited children over the Internet; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts federal funding for victims of trafficking and efforts to combat trafficking; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that combatting human trafficking should include severe prison sentences up to and including life in prison to deter individuals from participating in any part of the crime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the Department of Homeland Security's Blue Campaign.

Projected Cost: Unknown

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, in both its FY 2013 and FY 2014 budget submissions the Administration proposed a major reform and consolidation of the Federal Emergency Management Administration's homeland security grant programs which would replace the current programs with a new National Preparedness Grant Program; and

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

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors and other organizations which represent local governments, first responders, and emergency managers have registered serious concerns with the proposal to convert the current suite of homeland security grant programs into state-administered block and competitive grant programs in which funding decisions are based on state and multi-state threat assessments; and

WHEREAS, while FEMA has made changes in its FY 2014 budget proposal in response to some of the concerns raised by The United States Conference of Mayors and others, the proposal still contains several items of concern, including collapsing all of the current programs into a consolidated program which would no longer guarantee the retention of key programs, removal of the 25 percent set-aside for law enforcement terrorism prevention, and expanding the eligible applicants for the portion of the funds which must be passed through to local governments to include port and transit authorities and private organizations; and

WHEREAS, thus far Congress has rejected the Administration's proposed changes to the homeland security grant programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges FEMA and the Administration to work with the Conference of Mayors and other national organizations as well as Congress to develop program reforms which incorporate the successful elements of past and current programs and identify new approaches which can have broad support; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any reform proposals protect certain key programs, including the Urban Area Security Initiative, State Homeland Security Grant Program, and port and transportation security grants, which provide targeted funding to local areas and critical infrastructure considered to be at the highest risk; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as it works with Congress and stakeholders, FEMA use the following set of core principles developed by the Conference and other national organizations which represent local governments, first responders, and emergency managers to guide program reform:

- **Increase Transparency** – It must be clear and understandable to the federal government and the public how the states are distributing funds, why they are making these decisions, and where the funds are going.
- **Increase Local Involvement** – Local government officials, including emergency managers and emergency response officials, know best the threats and vulnerabilities in their areas. The Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) process must include the input of local elected and emergency response officials, and the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) must be able to audit states by comparing local risk assessments to the state level THIRA. Further, local governments should have the opportunity to challenge a state THIRA that inadequately reflects their needs or input.
- **Provide Flexibility with Accountability** – Any changes to the existing federal grant programs should allow federal funding to meet individual local needs, and preparedness gaps as identified at the local level. Effective but sometimes less politically popular programs, like mitigation, must still receive funding.
- **Protect Local Funding** – Since event impact and response are primarily local in nature, grant funding should support primarily local prevention and preparedness efforts, as is the case under the current program structure. It is important that the vast majority of federal homeland security grants continue to fund local prevention and response activities, including local emergency managers and first responders, and activities that support their preparedness efforts.
- **Sustain Terrorism Prevention** - The current emphasis on supporting law enforcement's terrorism prevention activities must be maintained. The federal grant funds should not be used to support larger state bureaucracies at the expense of operational counter terrorism preparedness, threat analysis, and information sharing activities.
- **Provide Incentives for Metropolitan Area Regionalization** – FEMA's proposal focuses on states and multi-state regions (similar to the FEMA regions). The homeland security grants must also support preparedness in metropolitan intra-state and inter-state regions.

Projected cost: Unknown

IMPLEMENTING FIRSTNET

WHEREAS, FirstNet was created by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 to provide emergency responders with the first nationwide, high-speed network dedicated to public safety; and

WHEREAS, using a nationwide spectrum license, FirstNet intends to provide a single platform for daily public safety communications so that when natural disasters, threats to national security, or other emergencies occur anywhere in the country, emergency responders will be able to communicate with one another; and

WHEREAS, FirstNet intends to build a network that will have a nationwide architecture, but will meet local needs and be managed at the local level; and

WHEREAS, FirstNet intends to build the network to public-safety grade standards using Long-Term Evolution (LTE) wireless technology so that it will deliver greater coverage, capacity, connectivity, cybersecurity and resiliency than the current multiplicity of diverse public safety wireless systems; and

WHEREAS, FirstNet is overseen by a Board composed of federal officials and wireless industry and public safety experts, as well as former President of The United States Conference of Mayors and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, and that Board receives advice from the Public Safety Advisory Committee, which is chaired by a former police chief and public safety communications expert and has as vice chairs representatives of local and state governments, the fire service, and emergency medical service personnel; and

WHEREAS, the FirstNet Board and the PSAC are moving quickly to develop the architecture and management plans for the network; and

WHEREAS, as FirstNet plans and develops the network it is important that it take into account existing public safety communications networks either in use or under development, including but not limited to the suspended Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) projects, so that it will take advantage of the significant resources already committed to these networks and be able to realize early successes; and

WHEREAS, allowing secondary users such as utilities and other critical infrastructure users to utilize the FirstNet Nationwide Network can provide significant benefits in terms of coordinated disaster response and help to defray deployment and operational costs of the network, but their use of the network must not jeopardize the first priority of public safety access; and

WHEREAS, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration at the Commerce Department, which is providing administrative and other support to FirstNet is in the process of reviewing and awarding state and local planning grants to the states and territories,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that FirstNet assure that the local first responder communication needs be taken into account in state and local planning and implementation grants and that planning and implementation activities be undertaken with the full participation of local public safety and government officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governance structure for the network clearly specify the role that local governments and their public safety organizations will play in managing its operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the network to be developed integrates with the existing public safety communication networks, including local narrowband communications, the suspended BTOP projects and other broadband networks under development in the jurisdictions which have been granted waivers by the FCC to deploy broadband networks in advance of the nationwide network; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local officials control the access of secondary users to the network to ensure that meeting public safety capacity is the top priority; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that FirstNet assure that network user fees and devices are affordable by local public safety organizations and that there is sufficient research and development funding to assure the affordability of equipment compatible with the network.

CYBER SECURITY

WHEREAS, the nation's economic vitality and security depend on a vast array of interdependent and critical networks, systems, services, and resources known as cyberspace, and cyberspace has transformed the ways in which we communicate, travel, power our homes, run our economy, and provide and obtain government services; and

WHEREAS, as we become more dependent on cyberspace, we face new risks, with adversaries working to use our dependence on cyberspace against us, and sophisticated cyber criminals and nation-states, among others, presenting risks to our economy and national security; and

WHEREAS, critical infrastructure is defined as assets, systems, and networks, both physical and virtual, which are so vital that their incapacitation or destruction would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, public health or safety, or any combination of those matters; and

WHEREAS, either a physical or cyber attack on such infrastructure could have significant repercussions in the nation's cities and throughout the country; and\

WHEREAS, cyber attacks have become an increasing threat for critical infrastructure and could result in serious disruption of both government and private sector services and activities; and

WHEREAS, the Secretary of Homeland Security is charged with providing strategic guidance and coordinating the overall federal effort to promote the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, mayors and city governments have a key role to play in developing robust and effective cyber security capabilities in their cities and across the nation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors identify cyber security as a critical public safety issue of concern to mayors and cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors work with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and others to provide information and assistance to mayors and other city officials to raise awareness about issues affecting cyber security and efforts they can undertake to secure critical infrastructure and other resources from cyber threats.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING AND ADVANCING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the strength and resilience of the country is increasingly at risk as our cities and communities face rising threats from extreme weather, natural disasters, and energy volatility, potentially jeopardizing continued prosperity and security; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather has hit every region in the U.S. last year; and

WHEREAS, four out of five Americans live in counties that were hit by at least one federally declared weather-related disaster in the last six years; and

WHEREAS, the country has endured a record number of extreme weather events fueled by a changing climate – heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, flooding – that cost the country an estimated \$188 billion in 2011–2012; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. has seen 130 separate billion-dollar-plus disasters in the past 30 years, including 14 in 2011 and 11 in 2012; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Sandy led to more than 100 deaths and is projected to have caused more than \$70 billion in damages, and shut off power to an estimated 7.5 million people; and

WHEREAS, Hurricane Katrina led to more than 1,800 deaths and more than \$80 billion in losses and a subsequent \$120 billion in federal recovery spending; and

WHEREAS, disadvantaged communities are often the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of extreme weather and the least equipped to recover quickly; and

WHEREAS, while more extreme weather stresses our communities, our aging infrastructure continues to suffer from neglect and underfunding, so much so that the American Society of Civil Engineers has twice given the country’s infrastructure a “D” grade, in 2009 and 2013, across 16 critical sectors, and revealing that the country faces a \$1.6 trillion gap in necessary infrastructure investment; and

WHEREAS, local communities are vulnerable to energy disruptions due to an aging and unreliable power grid, and harmed by volatile energy prices and dependence on foreign energy; and

WHEREAS, the country needs more resilient communities, able to endure and overcome these climate change, energy, and economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, taking action now will help save lives and increase preparedness to destructive climate change impacts, expand energy independence, strengthen local economies, and save energy and money; and

WHEREAS, for every \$1 spent now on disaster preparedness and resilience-building, the country can avoid at least \$4 in future losses; and

WHEREAS, American innovations are improving local energy resilience and energy independence, including cost-competitive solar installations, local energy efficiency programs, and smart grid and micro-grid technologies; and

WHEREAS, as cities work to chart their own road to resilience, they can benefit from existing tools, resources, and efforts, such as the Resilient Communities for America campaign; and

WHEREAS, with the right tools and support, mayors can lead on the solutions to build stronger, more resilient communities that can sustainably prosper for generations to come,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors will support efforts by communities across the nation to advance sound resiliency policies and programs that (1) identify and plan for the risk and challenges posed by a changing climate, (2) deploy a skilled workforce to modernize critical infrastructure in the energy, communications, buildings, water, and transportation sectors, (3) strengthen the community as a whole to be a safer, healthier place to live, and (4) when these tragic disaster events do occur, support efforts that help communities prepare, mitigate, respond, and recover in a smarter and greener way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support federal efforts that will help states and localities develop and implement resiliency action plans and help identify innovative financing opportunities to implement these plans, and reinstate and expand disaster mitigation grants which assist in disaster preparedness and infrastructure improvements.

Projected Cost: Unknown

HIV DISCRIMINATION AND CRIMINALIZATION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has been a national leader on strategies to address HIV/AIDS for three decades, establishing in 1984 an HIV/AIDS Program and implementing a HIV/AIDS Prevention Grants Program with funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and

WHEREAS, The National HIV/AIDS Strategy (NHAS) released by the White House includes a statement on the problem and public health consequences of HIV criminalization and notes that many state HIV-specific criminal laws reflect long-outdated misperceptions of HIV's modes and relative risks of transmission; that criminal law has been unjustly used in the United States to prosecute and disproportionately sentence people with HIV; and that legislators reconsider whether these laws further the public interest and support public health approaches to preventing and treating HIV; and

WHEREAS, nearly all HIV-specific criminal laws do not consider correct and consistent condom use and effective antiretroviral therapy that reduces the risk of HIV transmission to near-zero as evidence of a lack of intent or ability to harm; and behaviors that according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have negligible risk of transmitting HIV, such as spitting and biting, have resulted in sentences as long as 35 years; and

WHEREAS, sound criminal justice and public health policy toward people living with HIV is consistent with an evidence-based approach to disease control and research demonstrates that HIV-specific laws do not reduce transmission or increase disclosure and may discourage HIV testing; and

WHEREAS, The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, the Centers for Disease Control, and the United Nations Global Commission on HIV and the Law have conducted extensive scientific research and evidence reviews, finding that public health is endangered by HIV discrimination and criminalization and calling for comprehensive revision of state and federal laws and regulations,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for the elimination of HIV-specific criminal laws and implementation of approaches to HIV within the civil and criminal justice systems that are consistent with the treatment of similar health and safety risks; and supports legislation, such as the REPEAL HIV Discrimination Act, that advances these objectives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the recommendations of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS for ending federal and state HIV-specific criminal laws, prosecutions, and civil commitments.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S 2013 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY

WHEREAS, President Obama believes in the pursuit of an America built to last – a nation with an educated, skilled workforce with the knowledge, energy, and expertise to succeed in a highly competitive global marketplace; and

WHEREAS, for too many Americans, this future is limited by drug use, which inhibits the ability of our citizens to remain healthy, safe, and achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, in April, the Administration released the 2013 National Drug Control Policy, a 21st century approach to drug policy that outlines innovative policies and programs and recognizes that substance use disorders are not just a criminal justice issue, but also a major public health concern; and

WHEREAS, the President's Strategy promotes national and community-based programs, such as the Drug-Free Communities Support Program, that are evidence-based and work to prevent substance use in schools, on college campuses, and in the workplace because preventing drug use before it begins – particularly among young people – is the most cost-effective way to reduce drug use and its consequences in America; and

WHEREAS, since early detection and treatment of a substance abuse problem are more effective and less costly than dealing with a chronic substance use disorder, the President's Strategy works to expand programs like Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), supports education and legislation aimed at providing health care professionals with continuing education and training on addiction and safe prescribing practices for painkillers, and seeks to reduce opioid overdose deaths by expanding comprehensive overdose prevention measures; and

WHEREAS, the Strategy details actions to implement the Affordable Care Act, which makes access to treatment a new reality for millions of Americans as it ends discrimination by requiring insurance companies to cover treatment for substance use disorders; expanding treatment and reentry services for those incarcerated; and targeting expansion of care for populations with an unmet need for substance abuse treatment, including veterans, college and university students, and Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration's Strategy supports the lifelong process of recovery by working to lift the stigma associated with addiction and reviewing and reforming laws and regulations that impede recovery from addiction so that millions of responsible and healthy Americans in recovery can fully engage in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the President's Strategy acknowledges that the United States cannot arrest or incarcerate its way out of the drug problem and must take a "smart on crime" approach using innovative criminal justice reforms, including specialized Drug Courts, to break the cycle of drug use, crime, arrest, and incarceration by diverting non-violent drug offenders into treatment instead of prison,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the threat that drug use poses to our society and supports the President's National Drug Control Strategy as a part of his larger effort to build an America built to last.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF STATES SETTING THEIR OWN MARIJUANA POLICIES
WITHOUT FEDERAL INTERFERENCE**

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has long advocated for a fair and effective criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, despite the prohibition of marijuana and the 22 million marijuana arrests that have occurred in the U.S. since 1965, including 757,969 marijuana arrests in 2011 alone, federal studies estimate that 42 percent of Americans have used marijuana, including over 18 million people who admit to having used it within the past month; and

WHEREAS, enforcing the costly and ineffective prohibition on marijuana drains limited resources that could be better spent on programs that more effectively serve the public and keep our cities safe from serious and violent crime; and

WHEREAS, the impact of these costs are felt particularly strongly on the local level due to the fact that 97 percent of marijuana arrests are conducted by municipal or state law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the illegal market for marijuana is dominated by organized crime: The U.S. Department of Justice reports that Mexican cartels operate drug distribution networks in more than 1,000 U.S. cities and that “marijuana distribution in the United States remains [their] single largest source of revenue,” while drug policy and law enforcement officials, including former White House drug czar John Walters and former Arizona attorney general Terry Goddard, have estimated that cartels make as much as 60 percent of their profits from marijuana alone; and

WHEREAS, rates of marijuana sales and use are similar across racial and ethnic groups, but people of color are arrested, convicted, sentenced and incarcerated at higher rates and for longer periods of time; and

WHEREAS, during the 2012 election, Colorado and Washington State voters strongly approved measures to tax and regulate adult use of marijuana, while 18 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws legalizing marijuana for medical purposes and 16 states do not treat possession of small amounts of marijuana as a criminal offense; and

WHEREAS, several other states are considering reforms that will allow them to more effectively and responsibly control marijuana use and sales among adults in their jurisdictions in a way that reduces costs and crime and improves public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, federal law prohibits the use of marijuana for any reason, and federal agencies have regularly interfered with the operation of state medical marijuana laws – despite President Obama’s comments that such actions are “not a good use of our resources” and his administration’s pledge not “to circumvent state laws on this issue;” and

WHEREAS, a recent Gallup poll found that 64 percent of Americans believe that states should be able to reform their marijuana policies without federal interference; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 75th Annual Meeting declaring the war on drugs a failure and calling for a health-centered reorientation of drug policy that gives “cities, counties and states the flexibility they need to find the most effective way to deal with drugs, save taxpayer dollars and keep their communities safe;” and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 78th Annual Meeting recognizing that, for many people, medical marijuana is the safest and most effective medicine to treat their conditions, including returning veterans suffering from PTSD, chronic pain or other service-related injuries and illnesses; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted a resolution at its 80th Annual Meeting noting that the growing state-federal conflict on marijuana policies “frustrates our citizens, costs cities significant time and resources to address, and prevents the establishment of a regulated and safe system to supply patients” who may need medical marijuana; and urging the federal government to reclassify marijuana “so qualifying patients who follow state law may obtain the medication they need through the traditional and safe method of physician prescribing and pharmacy dispensing;”

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of fair and effective criminal justice and drug policies and reiterates its previous call for the reclassification of marijuana under federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes that its members have differing views on how to treat marijuana in their cities, and believes that states and localities should be able to set whatever marijuana policies work best to improve the public safety and health of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors believes that federal laws, including the Controlled Substance Act, should be amended to explicitly allow states to set their own marijuana policies without federal interference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that until such time as federal law is changed, The United States Conference of Mayors urges the President of the United States to reexamine the priorities of federal agencies to prevent the expenditure of resources on actions that undermine the duly enacted marijuana laws of states.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION
LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities face the difficulty of having the fewest legal rights in employment and housing of any minority group in America; and

WHEREAS, the discrimination that takes place in housing and employment forces certain members of the LGBT community into the ranks of unemployment and homelessness, thus contributing to the United States socioeconomic crisis; and

WHEREAS, many within the business community believe that “employers who discriminate are at a competitive disadvantage relative to firms that do not discriminate;” and

WHEREAS, through the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is conducting a study based on the Michigan Fair Housing Commission’s statement that “thirty percent of same-sex couples were treated negatively [based on their sexual orientation] when attempting to buy or rent property;” and

WHEREAS, all cities have a stake in making non-discrimination in employment and housing a legislative priority to enhance productivity, economic development, and human capital; and

WHEREAS, all cities can economically and socially suffer from the impacts of discrimination in housing and employment; and

WHEREAS, all cities can benefit from a more stable economy flowing from businesses and the housing market; and

WHEREAS, fewer than 500 of over 50,000 municipalities have passed ordinances preventing discrimination against same-sex couples in housing and employment,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages local governments to establish nondiscrimination ordinances and addendums to include discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports all of its constituents regardless of race, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, and gender identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors pledges to urge the state and federal governments to further amend and adopt the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development’s rule concerning

“Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity” to relate to all housing circumstances; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on governments of all sizes to adopt policies, ordinances, and bills to prohibit employment discrimination against any community due to the pivotal role of diversity in strengthening the American economy and society.

Projected Cost: None

PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the United States has played a prominent role in promoting international human rights since the founding of the United Nations in 1945; and

WHEREAS, international human rights are articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a broad range of laws, norms and values that recognize and promote the fundamental humanity and dignity of every person, as well as the necessity of fairness and opportunity for all people, and that enable people to meet their basic needs and to enjoy basic civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights; and

WHEREAS, there is an international human rights system, of which the United States is a part, which includes a framework of charters, treaties, court cases and laws, and international monitoring bodies, all of which are recognized and accepted by the vast majority of the global community of nations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the United States has ratified three of the nine core international human rights treaties: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT); and moreover, the United States has signed but not yet ratified a number of additional core human rights treaties, committing to not take action that will defeat the object and purpose of these treaties; and

WHEREAS, the United States has emphasized its commitment to human rights at home and abroad, which requires it to assess domestic conditions in light of universally accepted standards, take steps to promote and protect the full range of human rights, and engage constructively with international human rights institutions; and

WHEREAS, a basic tenet of the human rights framework is that human rights must start at home, and must involve and reflect the needs and expertise of local communities, and that governments have an affirmative obligation to respect, protect and fulfill these rights; and

WHEREAS, mayors are on the front lines of ensuring equality, combating discrimination and enabling access to affordable housing, healthcare and education, among other human rights issues; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has endorsed international agreements, including the Vienna Declaration in Support of Cost Effective and Evidence-Based Drug Policy and supported United Nations Conferences, such as Rio +20; and led cities in a global effort to comply with the Kyoto Protocol through its Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is committed to ensuring that cities around the world initiate and share innovative ideas and programs; and has encouraged international exchanges; and

WHEREAS, in a series of resolutions in June of 2012, The United States Conference of Mayors urged “Congress and the states to pursue a positive agenda that reaffirms fundamental rights;” reiterated that “cities and metro regions are the global hubs of innovation;”and

WHEREAS, a majority of people in the United States believe that human rights include equal opportunities regardless of gender and race, being treated fairly in the criminal justice system, freedom from discrimination, freedom from torture or abuse by law enforcement, equal access to quality public education, access to health care, living in a clean environment; fair pay for workers to meet the basic needs for food and housing; and keeping personal behavior and choices private; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has promoted policies to address fundamental human rights and needs, including health, poverty reduction, homelessness, equality for LGBT persons, non-citizens and disparities in incarceration rates; and

WHEREAS, as has been demonstrated in numerous cities, including Seattle, Washington, Salt Lake City, Utah, Los Angeles, California, Eugene, Oregon and El Paso, Texas, international human rights can provide a powerful framework for, and play an instrumental role in, efforts by cities to ensure opportunity and equality for their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes and affirms the importance of the international human rights principles of dignity, equality and opportunity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED members of The United States Conference of Mayors commit to uphold and promote international human rights, in collaboration with state and local government agencies and officials, as well as local communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED members of the United States Conference of Mayors commit to explore opportunities to incorporate international human rights into local policy and practice, and to support broader efforts to advance human rights principles locally.

Projected Cost: Unknown

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, on April 18 a bipartisan group of Senators introduced S. 744 The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act which would further strengthen border security, improve and expand the employer verification system, reform the legal immigration system, reunite families, provide visas to highly skilled workers and entrepreneurs who have so much to contribute to our economic growth, and allow the 11 million people residing in the country illegally to earn a pathway to citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States has signaled his support for the Senate immigration reform bill; and

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

- Providing greater border security and enforcement, with a “zero tolerance” policy against gang members, smugglers, terrorists and undocumented immigrants who commit violent and dangerous felonies while residing in the U.S.; and
- Recognizing the human and civil rights of both citizens and non-citizens being detained with a special emphasis on not separating families; and
- Strengthening the penalties against employers who knowingly employ undocumented workers and especially those employers who exploit undocumented workers; and
- Creating a program for the admission of temporary workers based upon the needs of the economy and over time qualifying for legal permanent residency; and
- Providing more fiscal support for city and state governments which are already disproportionately shouldering the costs of the current broken immigration system; and
- Implementing an earned pathway to citizenship for the estimated 11.1 million undocumented immigrants that requires a background check, payment of fines or back taxes, proficiency in English and standing in the “back of the citizenship line;” and

WHEREAS, while the nation’s mayors may not agree with every detail that is being proposed in the Senate bill, they recognize that the bill is a historic bipartisan compromise that will go far in establishing an immigration policy worthy of our heritage and enhances the nation’s economic competitive fitness for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, if the 11.1 million undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States were provided legal status, studies reveal that GDP would increase as would the personal income of all Americans including the undocumented immigrants; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments already are disproportionately shouldering the costs of the current broken immigration system and will benefit from comprehensive immigration reform; and

WHEREAS, a bipartisan group in the House continues to work its version of comprehensive immigration reform,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors registers its strong support for passage this year of comprehensive immigration reform legislation consistent with its adopted policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Conference of Mayors urges:

- Congress to include in any such legislation provisions that would provide support to local and state government for current and future costs associated with immigration; and
- The House of Representatives to follow the Senate's lead and take a comprehensive approach to immigration reform legislation this year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the nation's mayors through the United States Conference of Mayors intend to be a part of the process which develops comprehensive immigration reform and to work with Congress and the Administration to see legislation enacted this year.

Projected Cost: Unknown

EB5 IMMIGRANT INVESTOR PROGRAM

WHEREAS, EB5 is the designation for the fifth employment-based preference immigrant visa category established by Congress in 1990; and

WHEREAS, Congress established the Immigrant Investor Pilot Program in 1992 to create regional centers which aid foreign investors, by directing and professionally managing their investments while concentrating pooled investments in defined distressed economic zones; and

WHEREAS, EB5 allocates 10,000 visas annually to foreign investors and their families who invest at least \$1 million (or \$500,000 in a target employment area) which must generate at least 10 jobs; and

WHEREAS, EB5 has become a vital source of urban redevelopment funds; and

WHEREAS, since 2005 over \$4.7 billion has been invested in qualified American projects; and

WHEREAS, that investment has generated 95,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, 40 additional regional centers have been approved in Fiscal Year 2013 alone; and

WHEREAS, currently there are over 7,000 pending applications for EB5 related visas, representing \$3.5 billion in potential direct investment and 70,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, last year Congress passed legislation to reauthorize the regional center program, with a unanimous vote in the Senate and a vote of 412-3 in the House; and

WHEREAS, mayors are working with private parties to use EB5 foreign direct investment to finance job creating projects and downtown revitalization projects,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to include a robust EB5 program in the immigration bill including additional visas, permanent authorization of the regional center program and streamlined approvals for all applications.

Projected Cost: Unknown

COMPASSION AS AN EFFECTIVE PUBLIC POLICY

WHEREAS, by becoming part of a compassionate city, region, or nation, citizens become empowered to develop a sense of cooperation and reinvigorated hope; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Seattle Community hosted a weeklong event titled “The Seeds of Compassion” which included gatherings, discussions, and workshops, which subsequently inspired networks and organizations around the world to take similar actions; and

WHEREAS, the formation of the Compassionate Action Network International drew on the success of this event; and

WHEREAS, one of the results of this new network was the creation of the Campaign for Compassionate Cities; and

WHEREAS, today, over 80 cities from Gaziantep, Turkey to Louisville, KY are participating in the Campaign for Compassionate Cities; and

WHEREAS, one billion of the world’s seven billion people do not subscribe to a religious faith, secular leadership is needed to disseminate information related to the science of compassion and the positive impact it has on respect, dignity and service to our fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, each city is unique in the way it takes on compassion in civil thought and planning, such as Louisville, where recently thousands of citizens performed 107,000 acts of compassion in a week long Give-A-Day project; and

WHEREAS, scientific research is revealing that the early intervention with compassionate policies with at-risk youth shows great promise for positive change; and

WHEREAS, compassion programs could ultimately save cities money they would otherwise use for dealing with the costs associated with crime,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the cities who have adopted compassion as a key policy for their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors recommends that other cities explore the use of compassion as a key component to achieve core objectives in their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors provides future opportunities for exploration and discussion among Mayors on the role of compassion as an effective policy for their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work of the Mayor's exploration result in the development of policies, procedures, tactics, and practical guidance on the integration of compassion in programs to address the holistic wellness of communities especially as it relates to those most at-risk.

Projected Cost: None

ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, over 1,050 mayors have signed The United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities' greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in Fiscal year 2014, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.

Projected cost: \$2 billion

SUPPORT TO DOUBLE THE NATION’S ENERGY PRODUCTIVITY

WHEREAS, energy productivity means the level of economic output divided by the total energy used to achieve it, and can be expressed as dollars of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per unit of energy consumed (in British thermal units—Btu); and

WHEREAS, when we improve our energy productivity we are able to produce more goods and services using less energy – and that can save money, increase jobs, and cut down on wasted energy; and

WHEREAS, increasing energy productivity can deliver multiple large-scale benefits to the nation, including enhanced economic competitiveness, technological innovation, greater energy reliability and security, and strengthened stewardship of our environment and natural resources; and

WHEREAS, well over a trillion dollars in energy saving opportunities are available in the U.S., but realizing those savings will require billions of dollars in smart investment by both the government and the private sector; and

WHEREAS, governments, businesses, and individuals will be spending trillions of dollars to modernize our nation’s infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the lack of awareness and information about energy efficiency is a major barrier to greater energy productivity for consumers, businesses and government; and

WHEREAS, analyses performed for the Alliance Commission on National Energy Efficiency Policy found that doubling the nation’s energy productivity would result in:

- Net annual savings to American households, businesses and government agencies of \$327 billion;
- Average household savings of \$1,039 per year in energy costs by 2030;
- A net increase in US employment of 1.3 million jobs in 2030;
- Savings taxpayers \$13 billion per year in efficiency improvements in government buildings and vehicles;
- An increase in US economic output (GDP) by as much as 2% in 2030;
- A decrease in US carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of 22% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 33% below 2005 levels by 2030;

- A reduction of sulfur dioxide (SO₂) emissions and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) emissions by 55% and 45%, respectively, below business-as-usual in 2030, yielding important health benefits; and
- Reduce net energy imports to 7% of US consumption by 2030, down from 19% today.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The U. S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to develop policies and programs and provide adequate funding that supports the goal of doubling the nation's energy productivity by the year 2030.

Projected cost: Unknown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Projected cost: Unknown

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there are already many barriers to quickly and adequately clean up the existing nuclear waste at current nuclear waste treatment sites, it is unacceptable to consider importing additional waste from other sites; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORT FOR ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PRODUCTION

WHEREAS last year wind energy added nearly half of all new power capacity in America; and

WHEREAS this metric is proof that the renewable energy sector is capable of boosting economic growth while enhancing our energy supply; and

WHEREAS when it comes to America's energy future, we should be doing everything we can to generate as much of our power from domestic sources as possible; and

WHEREAS, America needs a secure and diverse supply of home-grown energy resources to power the nation; and

WHEREAS the Center for American Progress, the Clean Energy States Alliance, the Sierra Club, and the U.S. Offshore Wind Collaborative commissioned a study from the Brattle group to investigate the costs and benefits of developing commercial-scale offshore wind industry and found there is great value in investing in offshore wind energy development; and

WHEREAS despite this booming expansion of onshore renewable energy facilities, the United States still lags industrialized countries when it comes to development of an offshore wind industry; and

WHEREAS, America's cities, with their complex infrastructure, are major consumers of power; and

WHEREAS, America's cities need new sources of job growth to reduce high unemployment rates that persist in many of the nation's urban areas; and

WHEREAS the Obama Administration has expressed its intention to close the gap in offshore wind capacity by developing 54 gigawatts of offshore wind capacity by 2030 – more than 10 times the amount currently installed worldwide – and has begun taking proactive steps to achieve this target; and

WHEREAS, the development of the wind energy industry including, the offshore wind energy industry, has great potential to become a new sector that can add billions of dollars to the U.S. economy and employ tens of thousands of highly-skilled, local workers; and

WHEREAS, the role of wind energy continues to grow, having provided 42% of all new U.S. power capacity last year – more than any other energy source; and

WHEREAS, wind energy is developing an impressive record of job creation with fully 92% of wind turbines installed in the U.S. last year built by companies with manufacturing facilities in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Obama Administration and Congress recently agreed to an extension of the wind energy production tax credit which is vital to the long-term growth of the wind energy industry,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports greater federal, state and local investment in the development of wind energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports a continuation of the wind energy production tax credit for as long as necessary to secure the long-term viability of the domestic wind energy industry, including the offshore wind energy industry.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**ENDORISING THE MAXIMUM ACHIEVABLE BUILDING ENERGY
EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS IN THE 2015 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY
CONSERVATION CODE**

WHEREAS, America’s mayors have long recognized the importance of energy efficiency in the development of a successful national energy policy; and

WHEREAS, homes and commercial buildings are America’s largest energy-consuming sector – using over 40 percent of the nation’s energy, 54 percent of its natural gas and 75 percent of its electricity; and

WHEREAS, the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is the most widely used model energy code for residential construction in the U.S., establishing minimum efficiency measures that are voluntarily adopted by over 40 states; and

WHEREAS, the IECC is currently undergoing a review and revision process of the 2012 IECC, culminating in final votes by ICC Governmental Members represented by code and other officials from cities, counties and states in October 2013 in Atlantic City, NJ; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 IECC achieved historic residential efficiency gains of 30 percent that were long sought by mayors, the Western Governors Association, ASHRAE, the U.S. EPA/DOE National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, the National Association of State Energy Officials, the American Institute of Architects, the Business Roundtable, the Alliance to Save Energy and by leaders in Congress from both parties; and

WHEREAS, analyses by The U.S. Department of Energy found that the 2012 IECC yields “positive benefits for U.S. homeowners and significant energy savings for the nation,” and that moving from the 2006 IECC to the 2012 IECC reduces average energy costs by 32.1% and generates life-cycle savings for homeowners averaging from \$4,763 to \$33,105 (depending on climate zone); and

WHEREAS, after the 2012 IECC was completed, an analysis by the non-profit Institute for Electric Efficiency found that continued savings of the magnitude of recent efficiency gains in building energy codes and appliance standards “will completely offset the anticipated growth in demand in America’s residential, commercial, and industrial sectors combined, eliminating the need for additional power plants to serve these sectors through 2025;” and

WHEREAS, a February 2013 National Association of Homebuilders survey of what home buyers want found that “nine out of ten buyers would rather buy a home with energy-efficient features and permanently lower utility bills than one without those features that costs 2% to 3% less;” and

WHEREAS, the broad-based Energy Efficient Codes Coalition has proposed a new approach to future code improvements – called “Builder Flex Beyond the 2012” – which allows homebuilders the flexibility to choose from a menu of options to achieve 5% or more in energy savings once they have complied with the current prescriptive or performance paths in the 2012 *IECC*; and

WHEREAS, at its first round of code development hearings, some of the IECC Residential Energy Committee recommendations would result in a 2015 IECC that would weaken the 30% gains achieved in the 2012 IECC and which, if adopted, would mark the first time an updated IECC would be weaker in stringency than its predecessor IECC; and

WHEREAS, at its Final Action Hearings this fall in Atlantic City, NJ the International Code Council (ICC) voting representatives, made up primarily of municipal code officials, will consider these Residential Energy Committee recommendations and will vote to establish the 2015 IECC; and

WHEREAS, the nature of the voting membership of the ICC puts mayors in a unique position to encourage the eligible code officials from their cities to participate in the ICC deliberations and vote to oppose rollbacks in the IECC and in support of reasonable efficiency measures, such as those outlined in Builder Flex Beyond the 2012; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 IECC will strongly influence efficiency performance in millions of U.S. homes expected to be built in the U.S. over their 70-80 year lives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the adoption of Builder Flex Beyond the 2012 and opposes the adoption of proposals that backslide from the 2012 IECC’s stringency at the ICC’s Final Action Hearings this October in Atlantic City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages municipal support for all eligible code officials to attend these hearings and to vote in favor of continued efficiency gains for America’s model energy code, the IECC.

Projected Cost: Unknown

PROMOTING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND “DECOUPLING” BY THE NATION’S ELECTRIC AND GAS UTILITIES

WHEREAS, the nation’s electric and gas utilities provide the U.S. economy’s business and residential energy users with the majority of energy services; and

WHEREAS, under traditional regulatory rate structures, utility revenues are proportional to sales of electricity and natural gas, while many utility costs are fixed regardless of sales; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this rate structure, programs that improve energy efficiency among customers can result in reduced energy sales and a negative effect on utility profits; and

WHEREAS, traditional regulatory rate structures actually result in a utility benefiting from increased energy production and sales –called the energy “throughput incentive”-- that serves as a barrier to the utility implementing energy efficiency programs; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that the nation’s utilities aggressively promote, invest in, and implement energy efficiency projects and programs to address the mounting concern over climate protection and energy independence; and

WHEREAS, the rate method known as “decoupling” disassociates a utility’s profits from its total electric or gas sales, modifying the traditional ratemaking method by adjusting rates frequently to ensure that utility revenues is neither more nor less than what is needed to cover costs and a fair return; and

WHEREAS, “decoupling” removes the market barrier to utility engagement in energy efficiency and selling less energy; and

WHEREAS, States such as California, which have adopted decoupling, have seen per capita usage of electricity use remain flat over a 30 year period when the nation’s per capita use of electricity has increased; and

WHEREAS, the cheapest, most cost effective kilowatt to produce is a “kilowatt saved” through energy conservation and efficiency programs; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defense projects that global warming will have negative and dire impacts on global weather and vulnerable nations, resulting in the de-stabilization of geopolitics,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to provide an Energy Decoupling Incentive program that requires States to adopt “decoupling” into their ratemaking regulatory regime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all electric and gas utilities be required to meet an Emergency Energy Efficiency Resource Standard determined by the Secretary of the Department of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, taking into account factors such as global economic competitiveness, the pace of global warming, assessments by the Department of Defense on the geopolitical impact of global warming, and other factors deemed appropriate.

Projected cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF COMBINED HEAT AND POWER TO PROMOTE ENERGY EFFICIENCY

WHEREAS, the use of combined heat and power reduces the use of fossil fuels, reduces air pollutants and greenhouse gases, increases grid security and power reliability and lessens grid congestion and transmission and distribution losses; and

WHEREAS, combined heat and power systems are more efficient than separate generating systems as they recover heat that would be usually be wasted and capture it as energy; and

WHEREAS, power plants and other energy intensive industrial sources are a large source of lost energy and offer significant potential for greater energy efficiency through combined heat and power; and

WHEREAS, such systems significantly reduce the amount of greenhouse gases and pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the capital costs and lack of technical expertise can be barriers to the deployment of these combined heat and power systems; and

WHEREAS, combined heat and power systems are often used in large facilities such as hospitals, universities, and military bases throughout the country and have achieved considerable success in raising energy efficiency and decreasing overall costs; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has recently issued an executive order calling for a fifty percent increase (40 gigawatts) from today's level of combined heat and power capacity by 2020; and

WHEREAS, cities and its citizens would realize multiple benefits from the increased use of the combined heat and power systems such as by lowering energy bills through the increased efficiency and creating local jobs through installation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to enact legislation that supports cities and major energy using facilities in installing combined heat and power systems.

Projected Cost: Unknown

CONSERVING ENERGY AND PROTECTING THE PUBLIC FROM INJURY AND DEATH CAUSED BY CONTACT VOLTAGE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, contact voltage has caused deaths and serious injuries across the country; and

WHEREAS, contact voltage are dangerous and wasteful leaks in electric systems; and

WHEREAS, contact voltage results from the deterioration of the underground electric distribution infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, all conductive surfaces, such as sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, manhole covers, fences, street lights, bus shelters, etc., in the public right of way can become electrified by contact voltage; and

WHEREAS, pedestrians and pets can be and have been shocked or killed from coming into contact with an electrified conductive surfaces; and

WHEREAS, contact voltage causes significant and unnecessary energy losses which damage our environment and increase our dependency on foreign energy sources; and

WHEREAS, most safety actions with respect to contact voltage are not taken until after a tragedy has occurred; and

WHEREAS, to date, only a few cities have measures in place to protect the public from contact voltage; and

WHEREAS, the Mayors are committed to ensuring safe and efficient energy distribution and the public safety of all residents of, workers in, and visitors to our communities,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors in recognition of the dangers of contact voltage to its constituents, calls on Congress and the Administration to work with cities by providing the necessary resources through programs like Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to support the proactive detection and remediation of contact voltage to address the associated safety risk and energy loss.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

WELLNESS IN REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, improving the health and wellness of residents of the United States is a top priority of elected leaders on local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, the healthcare system is primarily focused on curing illness and treating symptoms, as opposed to preventing illness and increasing wellness; and

WHEREAS, without a shift to more prevention-based health care measures, the cost of American health care is estimated to grow to \$4.2 trillion in 2019, up from \$2.6 trillion in 2010 (1); and

WHEREAS, with increased rates of obesity and other preventable chronic diseases derived from poor nutrition and inadequate exercise, children born today are at risk for having a shorter life expectancy than their parents for the first time in the history of the United States (2); and

WHEREAS, Americans typically spend more than 23 hours a day indoors (3); and

WHEREAS, many building materials contain formaldehyde and other toxic VOCs, leading to levels of pollutants inside that are often 2 to 5 times higher than outdoors (3); and

WHEREAS, cities across the country recognize the importance of clean air and water; and

WHEREAS, many people suffer from impaired sleep, altered mood, diminished alertness, and reduced rate of learning as a result of insufficient light indoors during the day and excessive light at night; and

WHEREAS, many people suffer from allergies, asthma and other upper respiratory challenges due to poor indoor air quality, mold, and dust from poor cleaning practices and improper ventilation; and

WHEREAS, people around the country are rapidly trying to respond to these growing health concerns by practicing different forms of preventative medicine, making the wellness industry one of the fastest-growing industries in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has developed a Strategy for Action for Advancing Healthy Housing that encourages federal agencies to take preemptive actions that will help reduce the number of American homes with health and safety hazards. This cross agency effort led by the Department of Housing and Urban

Development, White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Surgeon General's Office, The Department of Energy and other agencies, represents a bold new vision for addressing the nation's health and economic burdens caused by preventable hazards associated with the home (5); and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has been a leader in promoting healthy living through the Mayor's Healthy Cities Campaign,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages buildings to use a combination of criteria and features that will enhance the well-being of occupants and address growing preventable health concerns and costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors encourages buildings to follow the WELL Building Standard or any other similar standard that uses a multidisciplinary guide for the design, construction, and management of buildings of all types. This Standard is the culmination of the latest in evidence-based design and leading-edge approaches that has emerged from a unique collaboration between world-class medical research institutions, the real estate sector, and the architecture industry. It will address the interior living environment through healthy materials and building technologies and encourage healthy behaviors. Some of the Standard's intentions are to:

- Remove harmful contaminants from the air and water and from surfaces where food is prepared; and
- Prevent and combat mold, microbes, and viruses that can propagate in water supplies, ductworks, and interior building surfaces; and
- Promote best practices for ventilation, air quality, humidity and thermal comfort.; and
- Reinforce the body's natural daily rhythm, thereby improving sleep, bolstering immune function, and increasing energy levels; and
- Provide protection against noise pollution and other factors that can produce stress in the body; and
- Deliver education to encourage healthy eating and promote physical activity.

Projected Cost: Unknown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, over 1,050 mayors have signed The United States Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging their commitment to reducing their communities' greenhouse gas emissions by 7 percent from their 1990 levels; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to appropriate full funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program in Fiscal year 2014, while supporting higher authorization levels in future years.

Projected Cost: \$2 Billion

IN SUPPORT OF EPA'S TIER 3 CLEANER GASOLINE AND VEHICLES

WHEREAS, mayors recognize that half of the United States population is exposed to air pollution levels that fail to meet national ambient air quality standards; and

WHEREAS, two pollutants, ground level ozone and particulate matter pollution, can trigger asthma attacks, cause complications for those with other lung diseases, contribute to heart attacks, cancer and pre-term births and result in premature deaths; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicles are a significant contributor to both ozone and particulate matter; and

WHEREAS, tailpipe pollution poses a particular threat to vulnerable populations such as children, older adults, those already suffering from existing diseases such as asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cardiovascular disease and diabetes; and

WHEREAS, near-roadway exposure to traffic pollution is more widespread than previously thought with up to 45 percent of the urban North American population living, going to work or school within 300 to 500 meters of a major roadway; and

WHEREAS, United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) analysis projects that by 2030 the Cleaner Gasoline and Vehicles standard will prevent up to 2,400 premature deaths, 3,200 hospital admissions and asthma-related emergency room visits, 22,000 asthma exacerbations and 1.8 million lost school days and work days each year; and

WHEREAS, these public health benefits can be achieved for about a penny per gallon of gasoline, and for about \$130 for new, cleaner vehicles; and

WHEREAS, updates to current tailpipe emissions standards and lowering the sulfur level in gasoline to 10 parts per million will result in significant reductions in emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide and volatile organic compounds emissions that contribute to the formation of ozone and particulate matter pollution; and

WHEREAS, domestic and international auto manufactures have testified before the EPA that the standards are achievable with readily available technology; and

WHEREAS, domestic refineries are already producing 10 ppm sulfur for some markets; and

WHEREAS, the cleaner gasoline standard will immediately reduce emissions from vehicles currently on the road by ensuring the emissions control technologies on these vehicles function at the highest efficiency; and

WHEREAS, automakers, emissions control manufacturers, labor groups, consumer groups, public health groups, environmental groups and social justice groups support Cleaner Gasoline and Vehicle Standards because of significant benefits to industry, public health and the environment; and

WHEREAS, the benefits are widely distributed and are especially important to minority and low income populations who are disproportionately impacted by asthma and other debilitating health conditions; and

WHEREAS, clean, healthy air is a fundamental American right,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors strongly supports the EPA's proposed Tier 3 Cleaner Gasoline and Vehicle Standards and urges that the standards be signed final before December 31, 2013.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2013
(S.601)**

WHEREAS, since 1974, Congress has regularly passed the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), a typically biennial package of legislation that is the main vehicle for authorizing water projects to be studied, planned, and developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and for implementing policy changes with respect to the Corps' water resource projects and programs; and

WHEREAS, water resources and flood control projects foster economic growth and development, stimulate employment, and create jobs, provide water recreation opportunities, and enhance agricultural and industrial productivity; and

WHEREAS, it has been too long, more than five years, since WRDA was last reauthorized by Congress in 2007; and

WHEREAS, cities and states across the country would benefit from many of the proposed provisions in the Water Resources Development Act of 2013, including the creation of a national levee safety program, financing pilot programs to provide loans and loan guarantees for flood control, water supply, and wastewater projects, and boosting the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has called for the enactment of federal legislation that would:

- Restore crediting eligibility under Section 104 of the Water Resources Development Act or extend eligibility under Section 221 to cover (1) flood risk management projects which were underway at the time of the 2011 withdrawal by the Assistant Secretary of the Army and (2) projects at milestones earlier than the draft feasibility report, such as completion of the reconnaissance study, and to authorize the Corps of Engineers to grant other exceptions, as appropriate, when in the public interest; and
- Authorize projects for which the Army Corps of Engineers has submitted a favorable Chief's Report, without the need for a specific earmark appropriation; and

WHEREAS, S. 601 includes these key provisions to expedite flood risk reduction projects as requested by The U.S. Conference of Mayors,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress and the White House to enact the Water Resources Development Act of 2013, as contained in S. 601, as soon as possible.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES PROTECTED BY LEVEES

WHEREAS, levee systems provide tremendous benefit to communities across the country, and in 2011 contributed to more than \$120 billion of damages prevented; and

WHEREAS, in response to the damage caused by breach levees in Hurricane Katrina, Title IX of Water Resources Development Act of 2007 required the establishment of a national inventory of levees to help provide an accurate count of the nation's levee system; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) estimates that there are about 15,000 miles of levees built under its flood control program. The additional miles built and maintained by states, localities and private entities are unknown; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to the requirements of the 2007 WRDA the USACE is working on a guidance document to be used as the basis for evaluation and certification of levees and flood control structures, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requiring levees to be certified in order for the areas protected to continue their exclusion from FEMA inundation areas; and

WHEREAS, recertification of levees is required every ten years by FEMA in order for property owners to qualify for flood insurance, and to retain USACE funding for levee repairs; and

WHEREAS, MAP-21, signed into law on July 6, 2012, required USACE and FEMA to establish a joint task force to address the ability for USACE levee inspections to partially address NFIP accreditation of levees. Attached are the joint task force's presentation and the interim report to Congress. Map-21 established the following deadlines: an interim report, not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act; and a final report, not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act; and

WHEREAS, most of the nation's levees are over 50 years old, with a large percentage of levees having been locally maintained since construction and the level of care and record keeping varying greatly. In almost every case, the design storm of record has increased during that time period and almost all embankment levees have experienced some settlement or encroachment; and

WHEREAS, the American Council of Engineering Companies points out a need for clarification with the overlap of regulations and in order to eliminate legal misinterpretation, the USACE and FEMA should define the terms "certification" and "certify" to accurately denote the agencies' intention or refer to "compliance determination" instead of certification; and

WHEREAS, the effort to evaluate and repair and rebuild these levees to achieve certification nationwide has been estimated to be as high as \$100 billion,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal Emergency Management Agency should clarify and align regulatory language before any required deadline of the recertification process; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, these new regulations are costly and will significantly impact the budgets of many communities across the country, and that Congress should provide sufficient funding for its share of mitigating levee system deficiencies, and should provide incentives for state, local, and private sources to augment their contributions.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE SUPERFUND TAX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE RENEWAL OF THE FEDERAL BROWNFIELDS TAX DEDUCTION

WHEREAS, the Brownfield Remediation Tax Deduction was enacted in 1997, largely in response to calls from the nation’s mayors for tax incentives to help local communities cleanup and reuse brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, the current law expired in 2011, the consequence of which is that brownfields remain idle in communities across the country because private parties who conduct cleanups after December 31, 2011 cannot take the deduction; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the nation’s mayors and other interested parties called upon Congress to simplify and extend the expiration of the original Brownfield Remediation Tax Deduction, and Congress responded by passing legislation to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, private parties in numerous communities have taken advantage of this tax incentive which allows cleanup costs to be “expensed” (i.e., deducted against tax liability in the year the costs are incurred) at sites where there has been an actual release, threat of release or disposal of a hazardous substance; and

WHEREAS, due to the fact that there are several hundred thousand brownfield sites in communities throughout the country, the nation’s mayor’s believe it is important to advance the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields; and

WHEREAS, the nation’s mayors recognize that the Brownfield Remediation Tax Deduction is a valuable tool that encourages brownfield cleanups in the nation’s communities; and

WHEREAS, parties at more than 350 sites in over 38 states have cleaned up contaminated sites and brought jobs and economic development to communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of these formerly underused sites has brought housing, retail, business, and office space and boosted government tax revenue for communities across the country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to enact legislation to renew the Brownfield Remediation Tax Deduction for a period of years for communities nationwide.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**RESOLUTION TO REINSTATE A FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP FOR ACHIEVABLE AND AFFORDABLE
WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS**

WHEREAS, the capital costs that cities bear to address combined sewer overflows (CSOs), sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs), treatment plant upgrades, and stormwater controls are unfunded federal mandates and are among the most costly burdens faced by local governments; and

WHEREAS, upon the passage of the Clean Water Act, Congress authorized and funded over \$60 billion in grants that created partnerships between municipalities, states and the federal government to share the costs of upgrading publicly owned treatment works around the country to meet the Clean Water Act mandates relating to secondary treatment; and

WHEREAS, in 1987, Congress determined that large capital grants for municipal wastewater treatment were no longer necessary, and phased out grants to local governments in lieu of a loan program to be managed by the states; and

WHEREAS, since then many unanticipated and extremely costly new Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates have been imposed on local governments and indeed more are to be imposed on local governments in coming months and years, but federal grant money is no longer provided to help meet these mandates; and

WHEREAS, today municipalities expend billions of dollars every year (\$111.4 billion in 2010) to provide essential water services and meet state and federal water and wastewater mandates, an annual amount that is nearly double the total of all the grants that the federal government provided over nearly 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the many mandates imposed by the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act have created cumulative financial burdens that cannot be borne by municipalities, their low and moderate income families, and their business enterprises, forcing municipalities to forego investment in competing municipal priorities; and

WHEREAS, in explicit recognition of the burden of these costs USEPA has recently developed a policy allowing local governments to create Integrated Plans through which a local government can coordinate competing and sometimes conflicting actions, prioritize actions that will provide the greatest environmental benefits for the funds expended, and evaluate progress and the need for further actions to meet water quality standards through adaptive management processes; and

WHEREAS, because USEPA currently interprets the Clean Water Act to require immediate compliance with any pre-1977 water quality standards, it relies on aggressive enforcement tools such as consent decrees and orders as its principal method of interacting with municipalities, resulting in overly costly and overly prescriptive mandates that often yield negligible public benefits, and precluding opportunities for flexibility by preempting the use of permits and adaptive management processes to comply with Clean Water Act obligations, and

WHEREAS, in tandem with these decrees and orders, USEPA and DOJ have adopted policies on penalties and fines that treat local governments as polluters, rather than as partners and stewards in improving our environment,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to determine that large capital grants to cities are necessary to meet mandates imposed under the Clean Water Act; to re-establish a joint environmental stewardship with cities; and, to assure that the costs of sustaining the infrastructure and operations of water and wastewater systems of cities do not unjustly burden low and moderate income households nor create burdensome costs for business enterprises; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to authorize and appropriate sufficient funding for capital grants to cities facing mandates levied by the Clean Water Act, that these grants be prioritized for financially distressed cities and be for no less than 75 per cent of the costs of projects to be undertaken by cities, and that these grants may be used to retire debt to which cities have obligated themselves to comply with Clean Water Act, if those debts have imposed costs on customers that are beyond the affordability limits discussed below; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the United States Congress to enact amendments to the Clean Water Act to address concerns related to unfunded federal mandates, such as the following:

- a) Without regard to the actual availability of federal grants or loans for addressing Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, increased flexibility must be allowed to municipalities seeking to comply with the mandates and that this be achieved through permits based upon integrated plans developed by municipalities to prioritize actions providing the greatest environmental benefits for the funds expended, and to allow municipalities to evaluate their progress and any need for further actions to meet water quality standards through adaptive management processes; and

- b) Remove regulatory barriers to the use of adaptive management and permits to implement integrated plans by specifically determining that a municipality implementing an integrated plan will be in compliance with its permit as long as it is making reasonable progress towards achieving Clean Water Act goals; and
- c) Authorize USEPA discretion to determine what constitutes “reasonable progress”, but do so within certain limits. Specifically, Congress should direct that a municipality will not be out of compliance with its permit for failing to make reasonable progress if:
 - the applicable water quality standard is not achievable based on a use attainability analysis in accordance with current EPA regulations (where substantial impact is defined as 2% of a household income and a widespread impact is defined at 20% of the service area); and
 - the control measures are not economically affordable because they would result in rates that exceed 2% of the household income of at least 20% of the families in a service area; and
 - or the control measures are not economically affordable because the annual implementation costs, including debt service, will exceed half the annual operating budget of the municipal utility and the municipality does not receive a grant covering at least 75% of the costs or the permit does not allow at least 40 years for implementation of controls.
- d) Provide the same flexibility for integrated plans implemented through consent decrees or administrative orders.
- e) Authorize permits for unavoidable sanitary sewer discharges so that controls on such discharges may be included in an integrated permit (rather than a consent decree).
- f) Allow regulators to issue permits with 10-year terms.
- g) Require USEPA to issue or work with States and their Regions to issue at least one integrated permit in each of the 10 EPA Regions within one year and to report to Congress on the implementation of integrated permits within two years.
- h) Prohibit USEPA from imposing civil or administrative penalties on a municipality for past violations if the municipality agrees to implement a plan to come into compliance with Clean Water Act obligations.
- i) Define the term “by-pass” to clarify that a system that is designed and permitted to treat excess flows in peak flow treatment systems is not considered

a by-pass to address the concern that some EPA regions are now claiming that permitted peak flow treatment systems are somehow an illegal by-pass of a treatment system.

- j) Amend title 6 of the Clean Water Act to authorize repayment of SRF loans over 30 years instead of 20 years to make the annual costs of financing those loans more affordable for municipalities.
- k) Require USEPA to update its affordability guidance to provide a more realistic and complete review of the all the financial burdens on municipalities and their ratepayers, including burden imposed by other federal laws and to justify flexible approaches to meeting all federal and state water-related mandates.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING CONSIDERATION OF FISCAL IMPACTS IN ESTABLISHING COMPLIANCE SCHEDULES FOR U.S. EPA PERMITS AND DEVELOPMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR PLANNING, MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF U.S. EPA PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, local governments play a critical role in providing wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and services for their citizens, businesses and institutions; and

WHEREAS, local governments support the goals of the Clean Water Act (CWA) to ensure a safe, clean water supply for all; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors released new research findings in May 2013 that confirm that local government investment in public water and wastewater infrastructure reached an all-time high in 2010, amounting to \$111.4 billion; and

WHEREAS, many local governments are facing complex stormwater quality compliance issues that are compounded by lack of infrastructure, variable natural conditions and lack of funding for planning, monitoring of stormwater flows and construction of stormwater infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, at the same time that programs and projects to improve water quality are contemplated, many local governments find themselves facing difficult economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, the CWA permit process does not require consideration of fiscal impacts that regulatory compliance has on local governments, consumers and households, the disproportionate cost burdens on low income households, or availability of funding to implement NPDES permit requirements; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA has acknowledged that the financial capability of a community should be considered when developing compliance schedules for municipal projects necessary to meet CWA obligations; and

WHEREAS, U.S. EPA Regions are not consistent in their consideration of financial capability, and therefore U.S. EPA is currently developing an approach to provide clarification of the financial capability analysis and that ensure consistent implementation among EPA Regions; and

WHEREAS, consistent and fair consideration of economic and financial impacts should be one of the primary considerations in establishing compliance schedules for CWA projects; and

WHEREAS, local governments continue to try to balance a broad range of programs and services while facing increasing state and federal regulatory burdens with no additional funding to the compliance costs for these mandates,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges U.S. EPA to promulgate rules applicable to all regions that require the consideration of financial impacts on communities and their residents prior to establishing the permit obligations and compliance schedules for any CWA permit, and to ensure that those permits allow for local governments to maintain existing stormwater systems while making progress on clean water goals in a manner that is sustainable and within a community's financial capability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United State Conference of Mayors urges Congress to appropriate funding to assist with funding mandated CWA obligations.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SAFEGUARDING MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, there is a great need to reinvest in the country's public water and wastewater systems, which currently face a \$23 billion dollar annual investment gap; and

WHEREAS, Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund annual federal funding has been reduced by 34 percent since FY 2011; and

WHEREAS, even before these cuts, a 2005 US Conference of Mayors study found that local governments paid for 99 percent of the nation's drinking water infrastructure investments and 95 percent of the nation's wastewater infrastructure investments; and

WHEREAS, every day, leaky pipes account for the loss of seven billion gallons of clean drinking water nationwide, or 16 percent of total use; and

WHEREAS, U.S. business will lose \$734 billion between now and 2020 because of costs and sales lost due to unreliable water infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, experts have termed the next 30 years the "replacement era" where a vast majority of water and wastewater pipes will reach their intended lifespan and need to be replaced in order to avoid the increased expenses of repair and replacement; and

WHEREAS, adding one job in public water infrastructure and wastewater management creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy to support that job. Further, a dollar invested in public water in the long term generates more than six for the economy at large; and

WHEREAS, jobs associated with water and wastewater infrastructure investment are green and span a wide variety of disciplines from engineering to accounting; and

WHEREAS, seventy-three percent of people in the U.S. believe government investment in safe, public water systems is either extremely or very important; and

WHEREAS, partnership between local, state, and federal governments is the fundamental way in which we can ensure people in this country have continued access to clean, safe, public water; and

WHEREAS, our nation has shown a commitment to our public water and wastewater systems through passage of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

WHEREAS, the precipitous decline in federal water and wastewater infrastructure assistance over the past two decades means that local ratepayers have borne the brunt of the costs of meeting the goals of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has resolved to encourage cities to promote the importance of municipal water; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors released new research findings in May 2013 that confirm that local government investment in public water and wastewater infrastructure and services reached an all-time high in 2010, at \$111.4 billion, compared to spending \$7 billion in 1972 when the Clean Water Act was passed; and

WHEREAS, we applaud the leadership of The U.S. Conference of Mayors for committing to infrastructure investment as a way to create jobs and profoundly stimulate the economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The US Conference of Mayors calls on the President and Members of Congress to create new and improved funding mechanisms for public water systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The US Conference of Mayors encourages cities to assert water as a priority, to recognize that cities should first and foremost explore options to preserve choices for public ownership and consider all available tools to choose efficient and effective operations of water and wastewater systems including the value of public-private partnerships.

Projected Cost: Unknown

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there are already many barriers to quickly and adequately clean up the existing nuclear waste at current nuclear waste treatment sites, it is unacceptable to consider importing additional waste from other sites; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

Projected Cost: Unknown

**A NEW ERA FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
TRANSFORMING SMART CITY TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, financial restrictions have forced many municipalities to focus on providing basic core services, limiting investments in technology and sustainability upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of technology nevertheless is happening at the breakneck speed changing the landscape of cities much like electricity changed the physical landscape of cities around the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the speed of integration of new technologies is rapid for individuals and businesses but comparatively much slower for municipalities; and

WHEREAS, attracting private investment into public infrastructure is essential for job creation, economic development, and America's long-term competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, innovation is key to being competitive in the global marketplace which is why cities must embrace new and innovative ideas and technology solutions; and

WHEREAS, smart city public-private partnerships can identify, finance, and executive capital projects that will implement a range of smart city solutions such as networked LED smart lighting, digital way-finding kiosks, public wifi hot spots and empower cities to create new revenues while expanding quality of life for citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the development of transparent public-private partnerships to develop smart city infrastructure with accountability, revenue sharing, and social and environmental benefits inuring to the cities they serve.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Projected Cost:

CALLING FOR U.S. LEADERSHIP IN GLOBAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND REDIRECTION OF MILITARY SPENDING TO DOMESTIC NEEDS

WHEREAS, in April 2009, President Barack Obama declared in Prague, “as the only nuclear power to have used a nuclear weapon, the United States has a moral responsibility to act. We cannot succeed in this endeavor alone, but we can lead it, we can start it. So today, I state clearly and with conviction America’s commitment to seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons” and

WHEREAS, in November 2012, the United Nations General Assembly established a working group open to all member states “to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons,” and scheduled for September 26, 2013, the first-ever summit-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to nuclear disarmament; and

WHEREAS, adherence to the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons commits each State Party “to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament”; and the U.S. Conference of Mayors has regularly adopted resolutions since 2004 calling for the commencement of comprehensive nuclear disarmament negotiations, as put forth by the UN Secretary General in his “Five Point Proposal,” to be concluded and implemented by 2020, as proposed by Mayors for Peace; and

WHEREAS, an historic conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons, hosted in Oslo in March 2013 by the government of Norway and attended by representatives of 127 states, the United Nations, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and civil society, including Mayors for Peace, highlighted three key points relevant to mayors as first responders:

- “It is unlikely that any state or international body could address the immediate humanitarian emergency caused by a nuclear weapon detonation in an adequate manner and provide sufficient assistance to those affected; and
- The historical experience from the use and testing of nuclear weapons has demonstrated their devastating immediate and long-term effects. While political circumstances have changed, the destructive potential of nuclear weapons remains; and
- The effects of a nuclear weapon detonation, irrespective of cause, will not be constrained by national borders, and will affect states and people in significant ways, regionally as well as globally;” and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors expresses its deep concern that both the May session of the new UN disarmament working group and the Oslo Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons took place without the participation of the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council, including the United States; and

WHEREAS, nearly a quarter of a century has passed since the end of the Cold War, yet an estimated 17,300 nuclear weapons, 94% of them in the possession of the United States and Russia, continue to pose an intolerable threat to humanity; and

WHEREAS, the threatened first use of nuclear weapons remains at the heart of U.S. and Russian national security policies, and nuclear tensions in the Middle East, Southeast Asia and on the Korean peninsula remind us that the potential for nuclear war is ever present; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's FY 2014 budget request of \$7.87 billion for Department of Energy Nuclear Weapons Activities represents an increase of nine percent above the 2012 enacted level – in inflation-adjusted dollars, the highest amount ever, and funds increases for nuclear weapon life extension programs that will result in upgrades to missile and bomber-based warheads, construction of a new uranium processing facility, tritium production and plutonium manufacturing and experimentation, and other programs to sustain the existing stockpile; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense has requested an additional \$12 billion in FY 2014 to maintain and modernize nuclear weapons delivery systems including a new nuclear –capable heavy bomber, development of a replacement Ohio class submarine by 2031, and extension of the service life of the nation's 450 Minuteman 3 ICBMs or their replacement in coming decades with new nuclear-armed ballistic missiles; and

WHEREAS, the Air Force plans to spend more than \$1 billion over the next six years to develop a guided tail kit to increase the accuracy of the B61 nuclear bomb, and the Pentagon plans to spend a total estimated at more than \$336 billion on the new F-35 joint strike fighter, a variant of which will be mated with the more accurate guided B61 bomb based at NATO bases in Europe, significantly increasing the capability of the non-strategic U.S. nuclear force, and making it more difficult for the Russian military to accept reductions of its own inventory of non-strategic nuclear weapons; and

WHEREAS, the Administration's budget request calls for a 23 percent increase for nuclear weapons research, manufacturing and maintenance over the next five years; and

WHEREAS, nuclear weapons spending is emblematic of Pentagon spending, which has grown by 50% in real dollars in the last 12 years, not including war spending, and nearly all of the "cuts" up for debate are only reductions in the growth rate; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, during a time of continuing domestic financial hardship, the U.S. spent \$682 billion on its military, as much as the next 11 top spenders combined, accounting for nearly two-fifths of the world total; and

WHEREAS, our nation's deep economic crisis can only be addressed by adopting new priorities to create a sustainable economy for the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, as the country was coming out of a long recession, the budget sequester enacted in March is imperiling the economic recovery in cities, with cuts to federal programs such as Community Block Development Grants, Section 8 Housing Vouchers, and Head Start forcing cities, local agencies and non-profits to lay off staff, reduce or eliminate services, delay infrastructure projects and reduce program benefits to low and moderate income families; and

WHEREAS, Mayors for Peace membership has surpassed 5,600 member cities in 156 countries, speaking on behalf of more than one billion citizens, and is approaching 200 U.S. members; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors adopted resolutions in 2010, 2011 and 2012 calling for deep cuts in nuclear weapons spending and redirection of those funds to meet the needs of cities, and adopted an additional resolution in 2011, "Calling on Congress to Redirect Military Spending to Domestic Needs,"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on President Obama to reaffirm his determination, expressed in Prague, to achieve the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons by speaking at the High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament on September 26, 2013 and endorsing the UN Secretary-General's Five Point Proposal on Nuclear Disarmament; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. government to demonstrate good faith by participating in the August session of the UN disarmament working group by helping "to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons," and by supporting extension of the working group's mandate beyond 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. government to demonstrate good faith by participating in the follow-on conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons to be hosted by Mexico in early 2014; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the President and Congress to reduce funding for modernization of nuclear weapons systems, to reduce nuclear weapons spending to the minimum necessary to

assure the safety and security of the existing weapons as they await disablement and dismantlement, and redirect those funds to meet the urgent needs of cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the President and Congress to reduce military spending and to reinvest those funds in programs to address the dramatic increase in poverty and inequality in our country; take emergency measures to repair the social safety net and protect Social Security and Medicare; create jobs, retrain displaced workers, including military contractors, rebuild deteriorating physical infrastructure, invest in new technologies for a sustainable energy future, and aid local government to restore and maintain vital public services, reemploying teachers, police, firefighters and other workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors expresses its continuing support for and cooperation with Mayors for Peace.

Projected Cost: Unknown

PROMOTING & ENCOURAGING INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

WHEREAS, the United States has played a prominent role in promoting international human rights since the founding of the United Nations in 1945; and

WHEREAS, international human rights are articulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and a broad range of laws, norms and values that recognize and promote the fundamental humanity and dignity of every person, as well as the necessity of fairness and opportunity for all people, and that enable people to meet their basic needs and to enjoy basic civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights; and

WHEREAS, there is an international human rights system, of which the United States is a part, which includes a framework of charters, treaties, court cases and laws, and international monitoring bodies, all of which are recognized and accepted by the vast majority of the global community of nations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the United States, has ratified three of the nine core international human rights treaties: the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the Convention Against Torture (CAT); and moreover, the United States has signed but not yet ratified a number of additional core human rights treaties, committing to not take action that will defeat the object and purpose of these treaties; and

WHEREAS, the United States has emphasized its commitment to human rights at home and abroad, which requires it to assess domestic conditions in light of universally accepted standards, take steps to promote and protect the full range of human rights, and engage constructively with international human rights institutions; and

WHEREAS, a basic tenet of the human rights framework is that human rights must start at home, and must involve and reflect the needs and expertise of local communities, and that governments have an affirmative obligation to respect, protect and fulfill these rights; and

WHEREAS, mayors are on the front lines of ensuring equality, combating discrimination and enabling access to affordable housing, healthcare and education, among other human rights issues; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has endorsed international agreements, including the Vienna Declaration in Support of Cost Effective and Evidence-Based Drug Policy and supported United Nations Conferences, such as Rio +20; and led cities in a global effort to comply with the Kyoto Protocol through its Climate Protection Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is committed to ensuring that cities around the world initiate and share innovative ideas and programs; and has encouraged international exchanges; and

WHEREAS, in a series of resolutions in June of 2012, The United States Conference of Mayors urged “Congress and the states to pursue a positive agenda that reaffirms fundamental rights;” reiterated that “cities and metro regions are the global hubs of innovation;” and

WHEREAS, a majority of people in the United States believe that human rights include equal opportunities regardless of gender and race, being treated fairly in the criminal justice system, freedom from discrimination, freedom from torture or abuse by law enforcement, equal access to quality public education, access to health care, living in a clean environment; fair pay for workers to meet the basic needs for food and housing; and keeping personal behavior and choices private; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has promoted policies to address fundamental human rights and needs, including health, poverty reduction, homelessness, equality for LGBT persons, non-citizens and disparities in incarceration rates; and

WHEREAS, as has been demonstrated in numerous cities, including Seattle, Washington, Salt Lake City, Utah, Los Angeles, California, Eugene, Oregon and El Paso, Texas, international human rights can provide a powerful framework for, and play an instrumental role in, efforts by cities to ensure opportunity and equality for their communities,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes and affirms the importance of the international human rights principles of dignity, equality and opportunity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED members of The United States Conference of Mayors commit to uphold and promote international human rights, in collaboration with state and local government agencies and officials, as well as local communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED members of The United States Conference of Mayors commit to explore opportunities to incorporate international human rights into local policy, and practice and to support broader efforts to advance human rights principles locally.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**CALLING FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT FREE AND FAIR
ELECTIONS IN VENEZUELA AND IN ALL COUNTRIES**

WHEREAS, the country of Venezuela recently had a Presidential election; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the Presidential election in Venezuela was fraudulent in nature and as the result of that fraudulence was the so-called “election” of a person to be President of Venezuela who was not selected by the people of Venezuela to become their President, and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports free and fair elections in all countries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon the government of the United States to actively support the people of Venezuela to be free to choose their leaders in fair and impartial elections.

Projected Cost: Unknown

JOBS, EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REAUTHORIZATION & FUNDING OF THE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

WHEREAS, the policy of investing in employment, training and career development is crucial to the nation's economic strength and global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, the investment of federal funds into adult and youth training, employment and career development has a positive impact on private enterprise within the local and national economy, tax-base and global competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, Congress has cut more than \$1 billion in funding for national workforce programs over the last two years, including support for an array of programs targeting dislocated workers, low-income adults, veterans, disconnected young adults and other highly labor market vulnerable groups; and

WHEREAS, funding for WIA programs over the last 10 fiscal years has seen a 15 percent decline nationally, with some states seeing reductions in funding over the last 5 years in excess of 50 percent; and

WHEREAS, the implications of the Budget Control Act of 2011 will create significant cuts to all workforce investment boards, especially so in metropolitan areas, with preliminary estimates for many cities expected to be in the double digits; and

WHEREAS, over 9 million people were served nationally last year by the public workforce system, funded through WIA Title I programs – a nearly 250 percent increase in participation rates in just two years – and over 4.5 million WIA participants found jobs through the system; and

WHEREAS, any further cuts to funding will seriously impact the ability of the workforce system to respond to immediate and long-term labor market demands, disrupting business growth and slowing our economic recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, while the national economy is beginning to expand, 11.7 million Americans remain unemployed, 37 percent of whom have been looking for work for six months or more; and

WHEREAS, despite a 7.5 percent unemployment rate, many employers in health care, advanced manufacturing, and other high-growth sectors report that they cannot find the skilled workers needed to fill up to 3.8 million current job openings across the country; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has long promoted an agenda of smart, sustainable investments in the nation’s workforce to put us on a solid path to economic recovery and growth,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act this year, in order to modernize the current workforce investment system to provide Americans with a competitive edge to compete in a global economy by acquiring the skills that growing industries desire; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to oppose cuts to WIA that are called for under the Sequestration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to:

- Fund WIA Title I Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth state formula grants at the Administration’s FY14 budget requested levels – increases over the FY12 levels of \$21 million for adult training; \$23 million for youth training; and \$36 million for dislocated worker assistance; and
- Fund the Workforce Innovation Fund at the Administration’s requested FY14 level of \$150 million – an increase of \$100 million over FY13 levels; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on businesses and private enterprise to:

- invest in workforce education, training and career exploration counseling to create a world-class competitive workforce; and
- encourage employees to participate in workforce development programs assisting students to achieve life-long learning and careers; and
- collaborate with education, state and local leaders to build a responsive education system including career information and curriculum reflective of current and future business needs, based upon high-growth job trends.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL NETWORK FOR
MANUFACTURING INNOVATION ACT**

WHEREAS, in his State of the Union Address, President Obama proposed a \$1 billion investment to create a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI), that would be composed of 15 Manufacturing Innovation Institutes and overseen by the Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, the Administration has committed an initial \$200 million to support the creation of the first three Manufacturing Innovation Institutes, which will be selected from proposals solicited through competitive processes led by the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy; and

WHEREAS, those Manufacturing Innovation Institutes would serve as regional hubs designed to bridge the gap between basic research and product development, bringing together companies, universities and community colleges, and Federal agencies to co-invest in technology areas that encourage investment and production in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the Manufacturing Innovation Institutes will have vast economic impacts as they will bolster the regional and local economies of selected sites all while strengthening the national economy and working toward an America built to last and compete globally; and

WHEREAS, domestic manufacturing has been a cornerstone of American prosperity and is critical to the nation's economic strength and future growth; and

WHEREAS, every dollar of manufacturing output supports \$1.34 in output from other sectors, a larger economic multiplier than any other sector; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing represents 65 percent of U.S. exports, pay for or perform 70% of U.S. industrial research and development, and is critical to the nation's defense sector industrial capacity; and

WHEREAS, American manufacturing has lost almost 6 million jobs since 1990, while manufacturing firms have increasingly relocated overseas; and

WHEREAS, American companies are increasingly competing not only with other companies but with other nations; and

WHEREAS, creating innovation ecosystems that support collaborative efforts and leverage public and private resources will encourage the growth of domestic manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, establishing networks across research institutions, private industry, manufacturing supply chains, and community colleges will spur innovation and commercialization of products, provide millions of high-paying middle class jobs, and address critical gaps in workforce development; and

WHEREAS, the creation of Manufacturing Innovation Institutes, as envisioned in the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation, will provide a collaborative framework that addresses the many issues facing American manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate approved, by voice vote, a deficit-neutral budget amendment offered by Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH) and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) to establish a National Network for Manufacturing Innovation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the Administration's Federal commitment to the creation of these first three Manufacturing Innovation Institutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congressional support for President Obama's proposed National Network of Manufacturing Innovation (NNMI) and the future creation of the twelve additional Institutes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to authorize and fund the National Network for Manufacturing Innovation Act to revitalize the nation's advanced manufacturing sectors and spur economic growth through American innovation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to:

- Fund NNMI in a manner and at a level sufficient to ensure that the Institutes will be self-supporting after a prescribed number of years; and
- Provide mandatory funding for NNMI to provide private sector investors maximum certainty when engaging with a manufacturing institute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on private industry and public institutions to invest in workforce training and skills development, leverage regional expertise through the NNMI institutes, and provide an environment that fosters innovation.

Projected Cost: \$1 billion in Fiscal Year 2014

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

WHEREAS, in 2012, manufacturers contributed \$1.87 trillion to the nation's economy, up from \$1.73 trillion in 2011, and represented 11.9 percent of GDP; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing supports an estimated 17.2 million jobs in the United States of which nearly 12 million are employed directly in manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the average manufacturing worker in the United States earned \$77,060 annually, including pay and benefits, while the average working in all industries earned \$60,168; and

WHEREAS, manufacturers in the United States perform two-thirds of all private-sector research and development in the nation; and

WHEREAS, US exports growth is a key factor in economic growth and are largely driven by technological innovation in aerospace, life sciences, clean energy, environmental scientific instruments, and other related fields; and

WHEREAS, today's manufacturing sector is increasingly located in cities; and

WHEREAS, manufacturing brings revenues into the city and metropolitan economy from external areas, states, and countries, also supporting job creation in other parts of the local economy; and

WHEREAS, thriving advanced manufacturing and related technology sectors attract and grow investment throughout our nation in both cities and suburban and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, President Obama proposed a concrete agenda to train American workers for advanced manufacturing jobs, end tax breaks to ship jobs overseas, and level the playing field for workers by opening new markets for American-made products; and

WHEREAS, the President launched the Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) to provide coordinated federal assistance to help communities develop regional implementation strategies aimed to initiate tailored public-private partnerships to expand manufacturing initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the President's proposed a cross-agency investment in FY 2014 to award five to six IMCP "Challenge" grants of up to \$25 million each for having the best long-term, coordinated strategies for attracting private investment and increasing exports; and

WHEREAS, the President proposed a \$1 billion investment to expand the Manufacturing Innovation Institutes Network across the country; and

WHEREAS, On May 9, the President launched a competition for three new Manufacturing Innovation Institutes which is part of a vision for linked regional hubs that will anchor economic growth in our nation's urban centers; and

WHEREAS, the President has proposed increased investment in key advanced manufacturing research and development programs across federal agencies; and

WHEREAS, the President has established an interagency Advanced Manufacturing National Program Office (AMNPO); and

WHEREAS, despite bipartisan interest and various legislative proposals, there remains a multitude of unconnected federal programs and no comprehensive national strategy for reviving and sustaining a strong manufacturing sector, keeping our nation on the leading edge of innovation, or providing sufficient resources to educate America's future talent and workforce,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges the President and the U.S. Congress to establish, pursue, and invest in a clear manufacturing strategy that better incorporates the role and value of advanced manufacturing in broader urban and economic development policies and programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should evaluate and remove constraints on urban manufacturing support, and that mayors and the federal government should work together to identify additional ways to support technology education, research and innovation that can boost advanced manufacturing in US cities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, the delay of reauthorizing Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) has been prolonged for 6 years and it is time for Congress to act; and

WHEREAS, ESEA can, as it has in the past, set national priorities states should follow, which must focus on accountability, performance, and fair funding; and

WHEREAS, students are often forced to attend the lowest-performing schools simply because of their zip code and have limited options to enroll elsewhere; and

WHEREAS, some of the worst performing schools have been underperforming for years – and yet these schools remain open and continue to do a disservice to our children; and

WHEREAS, with the exception of very few subject areas – specifically secondary mathematics – teachers with an advanced degree in the subject they teach are no more effective than those without such degrees; and

WHEREAS, lower-performing students and schools are assigned a disproportionate number of ineffective teachers, highlighting the inequitable access lower-performing students and schools have to effective teachers; and

WHEREAS, students of highly effective teachers gain five to six more months of learning than students of ineffective teachers; research has shown that students who are in the classroom of ineffective teachers for three consecutive years are unlikely to ever catch up to their peers; and

WHEREAS, the current ESEA emphasizes absolute school and district performance data and does not incorporate student growth in achievement into accountability systems; and

WHEREAS, the requirement in the 2001 reauthorization of ESEA to report disaggregated data highlighted stark achievement gaps that exist amongst several subgroups of our students; and

WHEREAS, disaggregated data by student subgroup is necessary to drive data-informed decision-making and to hold all states, districts, and schools accountable for student learning; and

WHEREAS, a precondition to any education reform effort is sufficient and fairly distributed funding based on student and school need, and researchers and lawsuits continue to highlight significant funding inequities across school districts nationwide; and

WHEREAS, fair and adequate funding will help ensure students have access to effective teachers and the resources they need to develop the skills necessary for success in college and a career; and

WHEREAS, ESEA has the ability to hold low-performing schools accountable to the needs of the families they serve; and

WHEREAS, the members of the U.S. Conference of Mayors have previously adopted resolutions that call for the reauthorization of ESEA,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following priorities for the reauthorization of the ESEA in addition to those already adopted by this body:

- Require states design accountability systems that collect and report school and district performance data based on student growth in achievement in addition to absolute achievement scores; and
- Continue and strengthen accountability requirements for districts by requiring all states to publicly report disaggregated data by student subgroup and to require districts to set annual, measurable performance targets for all students and subgroups; and
- Develop intervention plans for the lowest-performing schools (which varies by state, but is commonly characterized as the bottom 5% of the state's lowest-performing schools) that focus on catalyzing student achievement through turnaround or the creation of new schools; and
- Ensure schools are empowered to make personnel decisions focused on performance – as opposed to measures that research shows do not correlate with teacher effectiveness – by instituting performance-based evaluation systems in lieu of the Highly Qualified Teachers requirement; and
- Require states to ensure districts maximize opportunities and resources to develop and support teachers in improving their practice; and
- Require states to publicly report data regarding the number of teachers at each level of effectiveness by school and district; and
- Fully utilize funding intended to support students from low-income families by encouraging states and districts to distribute funding to schools based on students' needs, by providing schools spending flexibility, and by focusing accountability measures on student achievement; and

- Ensure reauthorization of ESEA supports the forward progress of those states and districts that have approved ESEA waivers.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION ON COLLEGE COMPLETION AND AFFORDABILITY

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has joined the President in setting a goal for the nation to achieve the highest proportion of students graduating from college in the world by 2020, and the goal that all Americans should be prepared to enroll in at least one year of higher education or job training to better prepare our workforce for a 21st century economy; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has supported the President's plan to increase higher education access and success by restructuring and dramatically expanding college financial aid, address college completion and strengthen the higher education pipeline to ensure that more students succeed and complete their degree, and invest in community colleges to equip a greater share of young people and adults with high-demand skills and education for emerging industries; and

WHEREAS, the rapid diffusion of online education has overwhelmed the system of location-based state-level licensure of postsecondary institutions, creating wide gaps of consumer protection for students and a dizzying array of incompatible authorization requirements and procedures for institutions, thus requiring a reciprocity system for authorization that has now been drafted by the regional higher education compacts,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports Race to the Top: College Affordability and Completion and urges Congress to appropriate funds to:

- Encourage states to reform their higher education systems by increasing their affordability, efficiency, quality, and productivity; and
- Reward colleges that have acted responsibly in setting tuition, providing value, and serving needy students; and
- Develop evidence of strategies colleges can use to improve their long-term affordability and quality, and to increase capacity; and
- Empower students and families with better information so they can choose affordable colleges that provide good value; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Race to the Top: College Affordability and Completion and other federal postsecondary education policies should, in addition, be designed and implemented to:

- Promote the widespread adoption of standardized systems of competency-based credit and badges that are portable between institutions and meaningful to students and employers; and

- Use technology to modernize student-centered, customized systems for college and career planning, assessment and placement, and enrollment services; and
- Align or replace admission and placement tests with assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards; and
- Create incentives for the adoption of policies and practices that increase graduation rates and reduce time-to-degree, including dual/concurrent enrollment in high school as well as practices recommended by Complete College America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the comprehensive reciprocity agreement for authorization of online and remote postsecondary education drafted by the regional higher education compacts and reflected in the consensus report of the National Commission on the Regulation of Postsecondary Distance Education, *Advancing Access through Regulatory Reform: Findings, Principles, and Recommendations for the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement*.

Projected Cost: The President's Budget includes \$1 billion

RESOLUTION TO ADVANCE COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS FOR ALL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has established as a national goal that every student should graduate from high school ready for college and career, regardless of income, race, ethnic or language background, or disability status, to be achieved in part by expanding linked learning approaches which include:

- Rigorous academic curricula aligned with entrance requirements for public institutions of higher education in the states; and
- An integrated career and technical education component organized in structured, sequenced courses in career pathways in high-pay, high-growth, or high-skill industry sectors and aligned with the Common Core Academic Standards and standards for 21st Century skills; and
- High-quality work-based learning components that connect students to real employment and real adults, aligned with academic standards and career pathway sequences; and

WHEREAS, a strategy for accomplishing these objectives was developed at the conference's Fall Leadership Meeting: *Developing Next Generation Leadership in Cities Through Workforce Development*; and

WHEREAS, in President Obama's State of the Union Address, he announced "a new challenge to redesign America's high schools so they better equip graduates for the demands of a high-tech economy" and stated that "we'll reward schools that develop new partnerships with colleges and employers and create classes that focus on science, technology, engineering, and math -- the skills today's employers are looking for to fill the jobs that are there now and will be there in the future"; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates "that integrating work-based learning into a comprehensive educational program can address students' diverse learning styles thereby enabling them to learn and master skills and competencies through problem-solving; add relevance to academic curriculum by linking classroom learning to real world applications; expose students to career options that can motivate and inform their decision-making; and promote psychological and social development via adult interaction" (NRC, 2004; Benard, 2004); and

WHEREAS, work-based learning opportunities include an array of programs linked to career technical course sequences and integrated with academic subjects, including mentoring, school enterprises, virtual apprenticeships, job shadowing, intensive internships, work experience and community classrooms that are an essential component of any comprehensive educational program of study,

bringing relevance to academic programs and building skills to prepare students for 21st Century jobs in a global economy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors endorses the President's high school redesign and career academy initiatives, with the objective of delivering comprehensive systems of linked learning for all students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports H.R. 3154, the Education for Tomorrow's Jobs Act, by Rep. Thompson (R-Pennsylvania); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls upon Congress to reauthorize the Perkins Act to provide expanded support for high-quality career pathways that are integrated with academic subjects and connected to work-based learning in order to ensure college and career readiness for all high school graduates, and to align the Workforce Investment Act, Elementary and Secondary Education Act and any waivers there from, Race to the Top, and other related policies with the objective of expanding these comprehensive linked learning pathways; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that mayors will provide critical support for work-based learning aligned to college and career pathways, including, as appropriate in individual cities, the coordination of afterschool and out-of-school municipal and civic programs to incorporate work-based learning, the support of intermediary organizations to assist schools and employers with the connective infrastructure for work-based learning, and incorporating into contracts with municipal vendors a provision for high-quality work-based learning opportunities connected to linked learning pathways.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR SMARTER SPENDING
ON OUR CITIES' SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, our country, through the federal, state, and local governments, invests over \$500 billion each year in elementary and secondary education; and

WHEREAS, unfortunately, due to the limited expenditure data collected, we cannot always be sure this educational funding is being spent in the most efficient or effective way to support student learning; and

WHEREAS, to increase student achievement, schools must increase their use of data to make informed budgetary decisions and to maximize the benefit of every dollar they receive; and

WHEREAS, few states effectively identify the schools and districts that serve as exemplary financial stewards, spending taxpayer dollars wisely; or provide assistance to schools and districts whose financial practices are unsound; and

WHEREAS, increased spending transparency will empower parents, taxpayers, and all community members to be strong advocates for their own children and those in their community, and to hold school district's elected officials accountable for success; and

WHEREAS, despite the data gaps, we know that the existing distribution of state funding is not sufficiently focused on student need and does not ensure that every child at every school in every neighborhood is given the same opportunity to learn; and

WHEREAS, existing rules tied to state funding further restrict, rather than empower, teachers, principals, and local school leaders looking to create innovative programs and strategies to meet the diverse needs of their students,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the development of smarter school finance systems that are student-focused, and that promote flexibility, transparency, and accountability in the use of public resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities for the K-12 education finance system in each state:

- Resources should be allocated through transparent and fair funding formulas, such as weighted student funding, that fund students at each school, regardless of the public school model, based on student need rather than on outdated mandates; and

- Innovation and efficiency should be encouraged and incentivized by providing permanent flexibility to public school districts in how they utilize funding provided to them; and
- School principals, as the leaders closest to kids, should have full authority to set budgets and to make staffing and operational decisions at their individual schools; and
- To ensure that spending supports student learning, states should develop data systems that link academic achievement to spending data at the school level; and
- To hold schools accountable for results, states should develop standardized rating systems that measure spending efficiency & effectiveness; and
- To ensure transparency and accessibility, states should develop reporting systems that promote community awareness and dialogue around education spending; and
- Establish meaningful supports for struggling district and charter schools that are not spending funds efficiently and/or effectively.

Projected Cost: Unknown.

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR INVESTING IN HIGH QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that the early years of a child's life are formative; characterized by immense growth - cognitive, linguistic, and social - and that the pace of this growth is significantly impacted by the child's environment; and

WHEREAS, children who attend high quality early childhood education programs demonstrate higher academic performance in math and reading during elementary school, are less likely to require special education services, less likely to have to repeat a grade, and more likely to graduate high school; and

WHEREAS, research shows that full-day kindergartners demonstrate higher academic achievement in later grades; better attendance in kindergarten and through the primary grades; faster gains on literacy and language measures; enhanced social, emotional and behavior development; and reduced retention and remediation rates; and

WHEREAS, research from pre-k programs in the states of Michigan, New Jersey, and Oklahoma shows that children who receive high-quality early education are better equipped to compete with their peers by the 3rd grade; and

WHEREAS, children who attend kindergarten for a full day are more prepared for school; they do better with the transition to first grade, show significant gains in school socialization and are equipped with stronger learning skills; and

WHEREAS, children from low-income families enter kindergarten performing, on average, 12-14 months behind their peers in pre-reading and language skills; and

WHEREAS, by third grade, children from low-income families reading below grade level are six times less likely to graduate from high school than children who are reading proficiently; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks 28th in the world for the percentage of 4-year-olds enrolled in early education programs and 25th in public funding for early learning; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, approximately 28 percent of 4-year olds are enrolled in state-funded pre-K programs; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, approximately 65 percent of 4-year olds from families in the bottom two income brackets (bottom 40 percent) are enrolled in pre-K (public or private) compared to 90% of 4-year olds from the highest income bracket (top 20 percent); and

WHEREAS, preschool programs nationwide vary dramatically in terms of quality, curriculum, and organization; and

WHEREAS, only 30 percent of 4-year olds are enrolled in a quality early childhood education program; and

WHEREAS, high quality early childhood education is proven to be a sound public investment; and

WHEREAS, research shows that for every public dollar spent on high quality early childhood education, taxpayers save an average of \$7 in future costs through increased workforce productivity and savings on public assistance and a reduction in crime; and

WHEREAS, parents, teachers, and principals nationwide agree that we need to do more to guarantee that children from disadvantaged families enter kindergarten with the same level of educational readiness as their peers from affluent families; and

WHEREAS, the members of The U.S. Conference of Mayors have previously adopted resolutions that support an increased public investment in early childhood education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities:

- Aim to provide access for all 3 and 4-year olds from families with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty line to a high-quality, full-day early childhood education; and
- Aim to provide funding for year-round, high quality early childhood education to prevent summer learning loss; and
- Aim to provide access to all 3 and 4-year olds to attend a high quality early childhood education, prioritizing access for children from low- and moderate-income families to close the achievement gap before it begins; and
- Create consistent standards for quality in early childhood education programs across all states, including: a full-day program; well-trained & effective teachers; low adult-to-child ratios and small class sizes; a

rigorous curriculum that includes developmentally appropriate strategies and fosters a lifelong love of learning; and effective evaluation systems based on child learning and development, and the quality of the child-teacher interactions; and

- Develop early childhood education standards that are aligned with Common Core Kindergarten standards in order to promote kindergarten readiness nationwide; and
- Attract and retain a robust early childhood workforce by establishing salaries that are competitive with K-12 educators and reflect the importance of the profession, and by providing professional development; and
- Ensure states and/or cities develop accountability systems for monitoring early childhood education quality and supporting struggling early childhood education programs; and
- Ensure states and/or cities collect and publicly report data and information, including child outcome data, and other indicators of quality, about their early childhood education programs; and
- Ensure early learning options and quality ratings are readily accessible to parents to empower them to make informed decisions in choosing the best early childhood education for their child.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF PRESCHOOL FOR ALL FOUR YEAR OLDS IN LOW AND MODERATE INCOME FAMILIES; IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDED CARE FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS THROUGH EARLY HEAD START AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS; IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FUNDING TO EXTEND AND EXPAND CURRENT FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN HOME VISITATION PROGRAM; ALL OF WHICH ARE PAID FOR AN INCREASE IN TOBACCO EXCISE TAXES

WHEREAS, fewer than three in ten 4-year olds are enrolled in high quality preschool programs today; and

WHEREAS, the United States devotes less public spending to early learning as a percentage of GDP than 24 countries; and

WHEREAS, children from low-income families start kindergarten 12 to 14 months behind their peers in language development and pre-reading; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that the early years in a child's life is critical to brain development and early education programs build critical academic, social and cognitive skills which are necessary for physical, emotional and social development; and

WHEREAS, high-quality preschool has been proven to reduce placements in special education, reduce grade retention, boost graduation rates, decrease teen pregnancy rates, and increase the odds of holding a job over the long term; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program provides at home visits for up to 570,000 families each year; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program has been proven to reduce problems such as emergency room hospitalizations, intensive care for victims of trauma, child welfare investigations, violent crime and juvenile delinquency; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program helps families with appropriate prenatal care, improve family diet, and reduces use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances; and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposes increasing the federal excise tax on cigarettes from \$1.01 per pack to \$1.95 per pack and that increase would be indexed for inflation after 2014; and

WHEREAS, the effect of cigarette taxes on smoking has been studied extensively; and increasing real price of cigarettes by 10% reduces the number of young adult smokers by 3.5 percent and reduces the number of kids who smoke by 7 percent; and

WHEREAS, smoking costs the United States \$96 billion in medical costs and \$97 billion in lost productivity each; and

WHEREAS, cigarette smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke kill an estimated 443,000 people in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 8.6 million people in the United States have chronic illnesses related to smoking; and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposes to create a continuum of high-quality early learning services for children beginning at birth and through age five by providing preschool for all four year olds in low and moderate income families, for expanded care for infants and toddlers through Early Head Start and Child Care programs and additional mandatory funding to extend and expand current federal investments in home visitation programs funded by an increase in the tobacco excise tax,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors fully supports providing preschool for all four year olds in low and moderate income families; the expanded child care of infants and toddlers through Early Head Start and Child Care programs; and additional mandatory funding to extend and expand current federal investments in home visitation program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to pass legislation in which revenues generated by a tax increase in the per-pack price of cigarettes be used specifically for the following activities:

- chronic disease prevention and control; and
- medical research, particularly research related to the addictive and other effects of tobacco on the human body; and
- child health programs, early childhood education and home visitation program.

Projected Cost: Unknown

A CALL TO ACTION TO REDUCE SUMMER LEARNING LOSS AMONG OUR NATION'S CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WHEREAS, low-income students across the country who lack stimulating summer activities lose two months of grade-level equivalency in reading every summer, and all students lose two months of math skills; and

WHEREAS, summer learning loss hits children from low-income families particularly hard, with the cumulative losses over the years exacerbating achievement gaps between them and their more affluent peers and increasing the likelihood they will drop out of high school; and

WHEREAS, students who lose too much ground over the summer in the early grades often fail to master reading by the end of third grade (reducing summer learning loss is therefore a core pillar of the comprehensive strategy adopted by the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading for ensuring that children learn to read by the end of third grade so they can read to learn in later grades); and

WHEREAS, summer learning loss can lead to placement in less rigorous high school courses, higher high school dropout rates, and lower college attendance; and

WHEREAS, a Johns Hopkins University study of Baltimore City Public School students found that about two-thirds of the ninth grade achievement gap in reading between lower-and higher-income youth can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years; and

WHEREAS, children living in poverty also face hunger and food insecurity in the summer (six out of every seven low-income students who receive free-and reduced-price lunches during the school year lose access to them in the summer); and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of teachers polled report that they spend at least three to four weeks re-teaching material from the previous year at the beginning of each school year. Thus, summer learning loss affects every child in the classroom and undermines efforts to improve school performance, since it slows down instruction; and

WHEREAS, engaging summer learning programs that focus on academic activities, as well as recreation and cultural enrichment, can stop the summer slide and actually contribute to academic gains for low-income children; and

WHEREAS, libraries, book distribution programs and innovative technology platforms can put reading materials in the hands of children during the summer and help keep their reading skills fresh; and

WHEREAS, cities are in an excellent position to coordinate and expand access to summer opportunities by bringing together schools, community organizations, libraries, recreation centers, and other partners to ensure children are engaged in enriching activities during the summer,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses the National Summer Learning Association's efforts to promote Summer Learning Day and to provide tools for cities that want to expand access and increase the quality of summer learning programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors endorses and supports the efforts by the 125 communities in the Grade-Level Reading Communities Network to address summer learning loss, along with reducing chronic absence, and increasing school readiness, (the Campaign is dedicated to improving early literacy by supporting community solutions to these three widespread, but solvable challenges); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors calls upon its members to support efforts to reduce summer learning loss, including those to:

- Raise public awareness and concern about the dire impact of the summer slide; and
- Scan city and community programs and resources to determine how much access children from low-income families have to engaging summer learning programs, books and learning technology platforms; and
- Bring together city agencies and community partners to broaden access to summer learning programs in subsequent years; and
- Support efforts to implement high-quality summer learning programs and integrate them seamlessly with the school year.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART AND MATHEMATICS (STEAM) EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the innovative practices of art and design play an essential role in improving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and advancing STEM research; and

WHEREAS, art and design provide real solutions for our everyday lives, distinguish United States products in a global marketplace, and create opportunity for economic growth; and

WHEREAS, artists and designers can effectively communicate complex data and scientific information to multiple stakeholders and broad audiences; and

WHEREAS, the tools and methods of design offer new models for creative problem-solving and interdisciplinary partnerships in a changing world; and

WHEREAS, artists and designers are playing an integral role in the development of modern technology; and

WHEREAS, artists and designers are playing a key role in manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, a new Congressional STEAM Caucus was created on January 28, 2013, with the Co-Chairs being Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), and Representative Aaron Schock (R-IL); and

WHEREAS, renowned cellist and arts education advocate Yo-Yo Ma at the 2013 Americans for the Arts Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy called on policy makers nationwide to include the arts in STEM education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to:

- Recognize the importance of art and design in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields; and
- Include art and design in the STEM fields during reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act; and
- Join Representatives Bonamici and Schock as a member of the STEAM Caucus providing leadership to the House of Representative on this issue.

Projected Cost: Unknown

U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR ADVANCING QUALITY TEACHING THROUGH PROFESSIONAL, HIGHLY COMPETITIVE PAY

WHEREAS, approximately, half of new teachers leave urban classrooms within three years, just as they are beginning to hone their craft; and

WHEREAS, most school districts are unable to design compensation packages that allow them to compete with other professions, and traditional teacher pay scales discourage the best teachers from entering and remaining in the educator workforce; and

WHEREAS, current teacher pay scales do not differentiate pay based on effectiveness and only offer incremental salary increases over a 30-year period; contrastingly, doctors and lawyers can reach their full earning potential within 10 years of entering their profession; and

WHEREAS, salary increases awarded in traditional teacher pay scales are based on attainment of degrees and years of service, neither of which are strongly correlated to effectiveness; and

WHEREAS, creating alignment between how teachers perform in the classroom and how they are paid will ensure that the most effective teachers are acknowledged and retained, reinforcing what matters most – student learning; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that school districts have performance-based salary policies greatly enhances the probability that every student in America is taught by a highly effective teacher; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming body of research now demonstrates that the single most important school based factor for a child’s academic success is the effectiveness of their teacher,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports reforming established teacher pay structures to ensure teachers are recognized for their tremendous impact on students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities as a means of advancing the teaching profession in each state:

- Require all school districts to establish differentiated, performance-based compensation systems as a means of attracting talented individuals to teaching and retaining their most effective teachers; and

- Ensure that teacher pay is competitive and that all pay increases are based on performance rather than the attainment of advanced degrees and years of service; and
- Ensure that school districts create teacher pay systems that are tied to robust evaluation systems that significantly weigh student academic growth and include multiple other measures to assess teachers' performance; and
- Ensure school districts create teacher pay systems that incorporate additional pay increases for effective teachers who are employed in hard-to-staff subjects and/or the lowest performing schools; and
- Encourage collaboration between cities and school districts when these performance-based compensation systems are developed.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INVESTING IN AMERICA'S OPPORTUNITY YOUTH

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to developing our nation's future workforce to insure the talent is available to allow employers to grow and remain competitive and stimulate the creation of new businesses and jobs; and

WHEREAS, mayors are particularly interested in addressing both the challenges and opportunities for the over 6.5 million Opportunity Youth across the nation, defined as being 16- to 24-years old, out of school and not employed; and

WHEREAS, the latest 2013 data indicates that only about half of the nation's 16 to 24-year old youth held jobs and shows no positive or significant trend changes related to high youth unemployment; and

WHEREAS, this high level of youth unemployment is creating a generation without the proper work experience to be successful in higher education and training programs, and to be properly prepared for future job opportunities as they enter adulthood; and

WHEREAS, The United States continues to see increasing negative global competitiveness trends related to the number of available and properly educated and trained young adults necessary to meet the future occupational needs of employers; especially for new technical middle skills jobs and for those that will be created through attrition by those aging out of existing jobs; and

WHEREAS, the current fragmented secondary and higher education and workforce development systems are not properly designed, aligned and/or resourced to produce sufficient numbers and levels of talent necessary to meet the needs of employers; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize that improving opportunities for Opportunity Youth through a comprehensive, strategic and sustainable approach will result in increased employment, decreased crime and safer neighborhoods, reduced poverty and improved family stability, increased tax revenue generation, positive stimulation of local businesses through increased purchase of goods and services, a reduction of publicly funded safety net programs, and the creation of a workforce to meet the current and future needs of employers; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors applauds the efforts of other organizations such as: the White House Council on Community Solutions, Opportunities Nation, Communities Collaborating to Reconnect Youth, Federal Interagency Workgroup, Coalition of Human Needs, the Campaign for Youth, the Aspen Institute on Community Solutions and others, to raise awareness and bring forth policy recommendations to more comprehensively address the needs of Opportunity Youth; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the critical role businesses must play in contributing to making the policy, system and program design changes necessary to insure the workforce talent being produced meets their future needs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayor calls on Congress to create an overarching Opportunity Youth policy and comprehensive, targeted and sustained investment to build community capacity; recover and re-engage youth who have disconnected; create new multiple and relevant pathways and better access to higher education and training; and make the necessary alignment and integration changes that better align education and training systems to create more meaningful outcomes and impacts, with strong accountability for measurable results; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on Congress and the Administration to make investments that will create summer and year-round opportunities for work experience, internships, transitional jobs, work-study, and related activities that will provide low-income and Opportunity Youth early exposure to the workplace and career opportunities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

INVESTING IN SUMMER YOUTH JOBS AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors is committed to promoting the well-being and positive development of the nation's youth; and

WHEREAS, a key component of this commitment is to foster the creation of summer job opportunities for youth in cities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, through involvement in summer jobs programs, youth are able to gain the necessary skills and work experience needed to prepare them for future careers; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2012 U.S. Conference of Mayors/Zogby Poll, only 30 percent of businesses hired a youth under the age of 23 for the summer, and 86.3 percent of businesses were never asked; and

WHEREAS, according to the same study, an overwhelming 73.7 percent of businesses that hired youth deemed their skills as either excellent or good, and 70.4 percent thought that the experience was fulfilling and productive; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Conference of Mayors recognizes the critical role that businesses play in overall job creation, and encourages cities to reach out to members of the business community and ask them to create summer job opportunities for youth; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the members of the private, public, and nonprofit sectors who have made it their responsibility to help create summer jobs and place youth in their own organizations; and

WHEREAS, in order to identify cities with outstanding summer youth employment programs, The U.S. Conference of Mayors has launched its first annual 2013 National Summer Jobs Challenge, inviting cities to describe their youth employment initiatives in an application process, and recognizing three winners at the 2014 U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, through the DollarWise Campaign, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has emphasized the importance of financial literacy training to be offered within summer jobs programs so that youth have the opportunity to learn how to responsibly use the money that they earn; and

WHEREAS, during summer of 2013, the DollarWise Campaign will invite youth involved in summer jobs to participate in the DollarWise Summer Youth Jobs Contest where youth across the United States will have the opportunity to win an assortment of prizes for completing a set of online financial education modules related to checking accounts, savings accounts, budgeting, credit cards, and financial planning; and

WHEREAS, the DollarWise Campaign has maintained the goal of integrating a financial education component into every summer youth jobs program by 2015,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on all mayors to establish partnerships with members of the private and nonprofit sectors and ask them to create summer job opportunities for youth; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls on cities with summer jobs programs to participate in the 2013 National Summer Jobs Challenge as well as the 2013 DollarWise Summer Youth Jobs Contest, and to also integrate a financial education component into their programs.

Projected Cost: Unknown

RESOLUTION TO ERADICATE BULLYING FROM AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, more than 13 million American kids a year are affected by bullying, with some driven to suicide; and

WHEREAS, teens in grades 6 through 10 are the most likely to be involved in activities related to bullying; and

WHEREAS, approximately 30 percent of students in the United States are involved in bullying on a regular basis, either as a victim, bully or both; and

WHEREAS, mayors are the civic leaders of the nation's cities and can be tremendously impactful to effect positive change in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the Bully Project, the social action campaign inspired by and developed in conjunction with the film "Bully", with the support of The United States Conference of Mayors, has successfully reached its goal of reaching one million students and educators across the country – building resolve for local communities to come together to improve school climate and create safer schools; and

WHEREAS, bullying still impacts far too many of our nation's youth – about 1 in 4 children in the United States are bullied on a regular basis; and

WHEREAS, mayors across the country have and continue to raise awareness about the issue of bullying and resolve to double their efforts to help eradicate this problem,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors fully supports anti-bullying activities such as The Bully Project and 1 Million Kids; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for National Bullying Prevention Month, October 2013, mayors across the nation pledge now to convene screenings and discussions with stakeholders in their communities to send a strong national message and drive real change at the local level; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the nation's mayors will do all they can to call attention to the issue of bullying in schools, and work to develop city-wide programs to combat the problem of bullying to ensure that all students have access to a safe and secure educational environment.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) recognizes the arts as a core academic subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

WHEREAS, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as authorized through ESEA, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Congress affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education's most recent study on the status of arts education found that 1.3 million elementary school students fail to get any music instruction, 4 million students fail to get any visual art instruction and 23 million students fail to receive instruction in theater and dance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Education called the arts opportunity gap the widest for children in high-poverty schools and cited it as an absolute equity and civil rights issue; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts report "The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth" found that high-poverty students who had an arts-rich education were found to have better grade point averages, lower drop-out rates in high-school, more likely to enroll in college and get better grades in college than high-poverty students with little arts education; and

WHEREAS, performance results from the federal Arts In Education program demonstrate the ability of arts integration to boost achievement results among low-income and minority students; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts with other core subjects:

- We call on Congress to hold hearings on arts education and develop policy to strengthen the arts in the reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act; and
- We further urge Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$30 million for the Arts In Education program, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education; and
- We call on school leaders to advance policies and resources that ensure access to arts education for all students—delivered by certified arts educators—that develop artistic literacy through a sequential, standards-based arts curriculum; and
- We urge school leaders to ensure that all students have access to in-school and community arts learning opportunities that support and add value to a standards-based PK-12 education; and
- We call on our communities to foster proactive, long-term advocacy collaborations among certified arts educators, community arts providers, and certified non-arts educators that engage parents, school leaders, and other key stakeholders to support student access to high-quality arts education throughout the school and community.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORT INCREASED TECHNOLOGY INCLUSION FOR UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the rapidly changing landscape of the global economy, in which workers skilled in computing, science, technology, engineering and mathematics are increasingly necessary for the US to remain innovative, secure, and competitive; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. still faces many challenges in preparing to meet this demand in workers with skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), with the U.S. Department of Labor estimating that by 2020 there will be more than 1.4 million computing-related jobs open, only 30 percent of which will be filled if baccalaureate STEM graduation rates continue at their current pace; and

WHEREAS, if the U.S. is to maintain its global preeminence in STEM fields—and benefit from the social, economic, and national security advantages that come with such preeminence—then it must produce approximately 1 million more STEM professionals than are projected to graduate over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, this means that institutions of higher education will need to increase the number of students who receive undergraduate STEM degrees by approximately 34% by 2020; and

WHEREAS, underrepresented communities like minorities and women represent a significant untapped talent pool that must be harnessed in order to meet this demand; and

WHEREAS, minorities and women make up 70 percent of students on college campuses, though they represent 45 percent of students enrolled in science and engineering programs; and

WHEREAS, only 5 percent to 6 percent of STEM jobs have been held by Hispanics or African Americans at any time between 2000 and 2009; and

WHEREAS, the diversity of our country is an asset for competing on a diverse global stage, and we need more Americans involved in STEM learning and opportunities, especially those from historically underrepresented groups; and

WHEREAS, whether it is pioneering new educational tools for students of all ages, bringing technical training to underrepresented communities, or mobilizing the private sector to establish mentoring programs for young people, many stakeholders can help to catalyze momentum on initiatives and ideas that will shape America's economic and social future,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports increased momentum and efforts to create inclusive college campuses and bolster underrepresented students' interest, enrollment and retention in STEM fields through increased preparation, and access to mentors, role models, and hands-on learning opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors encourages cities, states and institutions of higher learning to create collective action plans and adopt policies to address unintended barriers that might limit underrepresented communities' pursuit of STEM degrees.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS PRIORITIES FOR ADVANCING ON
COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS IMPLEMENTATION WITHOUT
DELAY**

WHEREAS, by the time U.S. students reach college and compete for jobs in the workforce, they have very different competency levels within and among states: meeting a state standard no longer means students are proficient upon high school graduation and ready to enter college; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices and Council of Chief State School Officers demonstrates national movement of governors and state commissioners of education from 48 states, two territories, and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of academic standards, covering career and college readiness expectations for all high schools graduates and grade-level expectations for kindergarten through 12th grade in math and English Language Arts; and

WHEREAS, the Common Core State Standards represent a policy innovation that allows for an unprecedented level of continuity among states, grades, and subjects, and incorporates feedback from teachers and content experts, as well as the general public; and

WHEREAS, many state standards suffer from the inclusion of too many standards—Common Core streamlines and focuses standards in a way that enables instructors and their students to achieve a greater mastery of fundamental concepts; and

WHEREAS, 33 states have less rigorous standards in both math and English Language Arts (ELA) standards than Common Core Standards; and

WHEREAS, Common Core represents a substantial upgrade in terms of rigor and expectations for student learning, and the standards have been widely accepted among states: 45 states and the District of Columbia have voluntarily adopted the full standards and have committed to implementing them by 2014; and

WHEREAS, Chicago, D.C. and 18 other large urban districts have committed to buying or creating only materials that follow the standards; and

WHEREAS, teachers and content experts drove the creation of Common Core and widely support it. A survey of teachers interviewed regarding the Common Core math standards found that more than 90 percent value the idea of Common Core overall; and

WHEREAS, researchers find that internationally, the U.S. overall annual growth in student achievement in math, reading and science is mediocre. Out of the 49 countries surveyed, the U.S. performs in the middle of the pack; and

WHEREAS, research shows that Common Core State Standards are internationally benchmarked with top-performing countries;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the full implementation of Common Core State Standards, including professional development for teachers and continued funding for state and district implementation activities and assessment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the following policy priorities for Common Core State Standards implementation in each state:

- Ensure district implementation plans provide for meaningful professional development that prepares educators to transition to the new standards effectively.
- Maintain sufficient funding for meaningful implementation of Common Core State Standards in states that have adopted them.
- Ensure states and districts have full authority to set curriculum guidelines and make instructional choices based on the needs and programs of their schools and their individual students.
- Ensure Common Core-aligned assessments accurately assess both college and career readiness of all students in order to ensure states and districts are adequately preparing students for successful futures.
- Ensure that postsecondary institutions in each state that has adopted Common Core use Common Core-aligned assessments for admission, placement, and remediation.
- Use secure data systems that incorporate student assessment data from Common Core-aligned assessments, in an effort to ensure the privacy of student data.

Projected Cost: Unknown

METRO ECONOMICS POLICY COMMITTEE

DEFENDING THE TAX EXEMPTION ON MUNICIPAL BONDS

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is dedicated to ensuring local control and decision making through access to affordable capital; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds finance infrastructure that touches the daily lives of every American citizen – the roads we drive on, schools and education for our children, affordable housing, water systems that supply safe drinking water, wastewater systems that keep our waterways clean, courthouses, hospitals and clinics to treat the sick, airports and ports that help move products domestically and overseas, and utility plants that power homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, three-quarters of all infrastructure investments made in the United States are financed by state and local governments and their agencies through tax-exempt municipal bonds; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds have, for 200 years, been the way that state and local governments can affordably access capital markets to meet the needs of their citizens; and

WHEREAS, interest on municipal bonds is exempt from Federal taxation under a principle of reciprocal immunity under which the Federal Government is exempt from State and local taxations and local governments are exempt from Federal taxation; and

WHEREAS, savings from affordable financing through tax-exempt bonds allows for greater infrastructure investments and savings passed directly to taxpayers and ratepayers in the form of reduced taxes and fees; and

WHEREAS, keeping infrastructure costs low is critical to job creation and to the infrastructure investments that are the backbone of our economy; and

WHEREAS, the American Society of Civil Engineers has given a grade of D+ for the condition and performance of the nation's infrastructure, and estimates an investment of \$3.6 trillion will be needed by 2020; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Administration have proposed capping, limiting, eliminating or replacing tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, several studies have concluded convincingly that proposals to limit, eliminate or replace tax-exempt bonds would result in significantly higher borrowing costs for state and local government; and

WHEREAS, increased borrowing costs would translate to increased fees and increased taxation at the local level, or in the failure to meet core infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, limiting, eliminating or replacing tax-exempt bonds could shut many small issuers out of the bond market entirely; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the financing tool that exists by and for local governments without federal interference; and

WHEREAS, federal mandates significantly increase state and local government infrastructure costs, with mandates related to the Clean Water Act placing an especially large burden on city governments; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments cannot and should not rely exclusively upon federal tax credits, federal reimbursement payments, federal grants and federal loans to finance infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, over the past decade funding for core federal government infrastructure grant programs has been stagnant at best and in many cases has declined precipitously; and

WHEREAS, in an era of increasing federal mandates and federal budget austerity, capping, limiting or eliminating tax-exempt bonds would essentially signal a divestment in infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, tax credit bonds and direct subsidy bonds are a good complement to traditional tax-exempt municipal bonds but would be a poor substitute due to reliance on a federal subsidy and higher costs for smaller issuers,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors opposes any proposal to cap, limit, eliminate or replace tax-exempt bonds.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL BOND TAX EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, for over 100 years, the federal government has exempted the taxation of interest that municipal bond holders accrue; and

WHEREAS, for state and local governments, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the most important tool available for financing critical infrastructure projects such as primary and secondary schools, hospitals, water and sewer systems, roads, highways and streets, public power facilities, and mass transit projects; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments are responsible for building and maintaining 75 percent of the nation's infrastructure, which is financed mostly by tax-exempt municipal bonds; and

WHEREAS, due to the municipal bond tax exemption, on average, state and local governments save up to two percentage points on their borrowing rates, a significant savings when you consider there is currently about \$3.7 trillion in outstanding tax-exempt municipal bonds; and

WHEREAS, as a way to reduce annual federal deficits, proposals have been made that would place a 28 percent cap on interest earning from tax-exempt bonds or eliminate the tax exemption altogether; and

WHEREAS, according to a study by The United States Conference of Mayors, National League of Cities, and National Association of Counties, without the municipal bond tax exemption, it would have cost state and local governments \$495 billion in addition to the \$1.65 trillion of infrastructure investment that were made over the last decade,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges the Administration and Congress to preserve the current tax-exempt status of municipal bonds that has successfully provided trillions of dollars in low-cost financing for critical infrastructure investments that serve citizens in all states and local communities.

Projected Cost: None

IN THANKS TO SENATORS ENZI, DURBIN, AND ALEXANDER

WHEREAS, the Marketplace Fairness Act stands to empower states and units of local government with the authority to collect an estimated \$23 billion annually in due tax revenue from remote online sales; and

WHEREAS, the original bi-partisan co-sponsors of the bill, Senator Mike Enzi, Senator Dick Durbin, and Senator Lamar Alexander, and their Senate staff have tirelessly advocated for the Marketplace Fairness Act and brought national attention to this cause; and

WHEREAS, these original co-sponsors have shepherded this bill from the drafting of its legislative language through committee consideration to the floor of the Senate; and

WHEREAS, the co-sponsors successfully guided this bill to Senate passage by building a coalition of diverse interests including businesses, national associations, and local governments and by garnering bi-partisan support as evidenced by the 69-27 vote,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors commends Senator Enzi, Senator Durbin, and Senator Alexander and thanks them for their efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the House of Representatives to take up and pass this legislation so as to conclude Congressional action on the Marketplace Fairness Act this year.

Projected Cost: None

THE NEED TO PRESERVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CONSUMERS RIGHTS IN THE BROADBAND ERA

WHEREAS, mayors support the universal availability of affordable wire line and wireless broadband services; and

WHEREAS, mayors, as the CEOs of local governments, which are themselves significant and sophisticated users of broadband communications technology and eagerly await choice of broadband providers, faster speeds and lower prices; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the increasingly vital role broadband wire line and wireless services play in both homeland and hometown security, including economic security; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors' broadband communications advocacy efforts with Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the Administration since 2010 has been to call upon the Federal government to:

- Recognize and respect the inherent police powers of local governments, including the right to manage and charge for the use of the public rights-of-way; and
- Require that new technologies bear the same social obligations as the services they seek to replace such as supporting E-911 services, consumer privacy, universal service, PEG programming; and
- Appreciate the neighborhood-by-neighborhood expertise local government brings to overseeing the social obligations, including public safety, broadband deployment, and preventing economic redlining; and
- Homeland and hometown security require the dedication of interference free dedicated interoperable spectrum for first responders; and
- Federal policy must continue to distinguish a tax from a fee for benefit rendered, such as use of the rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, there are continuing challenges being made to local governments' real estate, zoning and taxing authority in communications policy at the federal and state level,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that mayors believe the following actions will serve to protect consumers, local businesses and local governments:

- **Protect Main Street Merchants and Local Tax Revenues in Internet Age**: Current tax laws favor on-line or remote commercial transactions as

opposed to local purchases. Therefore, The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to adopt legislation such as the Marketplace Fairness Act (S. 336, H.R. 684), so that states might harmonize the tax treatment of transactions conducted on Main Street versus the Internet. The legislative proposal, which requires all sales and use taxes to be collected according to the destination rate, nevertheless protects remote vendors by exempting sellers with less than \$1 million in gross remote sales, and bans additional registration, licensing or regulatory requirements; and

- **Oppose Efforts to Expand or Make Permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act:** Expansion or making permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act would severely limit the ability of local governments to require Internet Access providers from bearing their fair share on social obligations and could jeopardize the relief of the Marketplace Fairness Act offers. The law is set to expire in November of 2014. Legislation (S. 31/HR 434) has been introduced to make the ban permanent. Congress should allow the ban to sunset, but in no case expand or make permanent the ban. The Internet no longer needs such a safe harbor status; and
- **Protection of Police Powers; Rights-of-Way and the Right of a Fair Return for Use Even By Broadband Users:** Mayors call on Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to reject legislative and regulatory initiatives to preempt, or otherwise limit, local governments' ability to manage their rights-of-way, including the ability to demand a fair rental payment for the use of same. Fairness and the financial health of local governments across the country demand that local governments retain authority to manage and obtain compensation for the use of their rights-of-way. Included in this compensable use should be broadband services which are not currently paying their fair share of the rent due for use of the community's assets; and
- **Extend or Clarify Consumer Protection to Broadband Services:** Mayors call on Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that consumer protections such as privacy rights and rate protection in the absence of real competition are afforded broadband consumers. The regulatory finding that broadband services are interstate information services has led to claims that broadband consumers are not protected under current consumer protections for non information services, nor state and local level consumer protection standards. While Mayors do not accept that claim as there are independent bases to provide consumer protections, such ambiguities should be eliminated by Congress and the FCC by affirmatively extending such protections to broadband users; and
- **Update Effective Competition Standards:** Current effective competition standards are not providing consumers protection against excessive cable rates. Mayors call on Congress to amend the standards to provide meaningful protection. The General Accounting Office has documented that the only

effective competitor to a cable operator is another wireline competitor. Congress should confine its definition of what constitutes effective competition to the presence of a 2nd wireline provider that is available to a large majority of consumers in a community; and

- **Oppose Preferential Tax Treatment for Specific Industry**: Mayors continue to be concerned about efforts at the federal level that would provide preferential treatment to any industry seeking to create its own special immunity from state and local taxation. Mayors call upon legislators at the federal and state level to reject legislative initiatives to preempt state and local taxing authority on wireless service providers and their property. Adoption of such special-interest legislation would be a disservice to the taxpayers and citizens of the nation by undercutting a community's ability to bring fairness and equity to our existing tax system; and
- **Create/Preserve PEG Jobs by Freeing Up Support**: Mayors call on the Congress to enact legislation to eliminate the unnecessary limits on PEG fund uses so as to create or preserve local jobs rather than limit use to capital costs; and
- **Preserve Local Zoning Over Cell Towers**: Mayors call on Congress to clarify that zoning decisions over cell tower sitings are a power reserved to local government, not the FCC.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION PROPOSED CHANGES IN NET ASSET VALUE RULES FOR
MONEY MARKET MUTUAL FUNDS**

WHEREAS, the Securities and Exchange Commission has proposed additional changes to SEC Rule 2a-7 above and beyond the comprehensive amendments adopted in January 2010 to strengthen money market funds and ensure investors are investing in high-quality securities; and

WHEREAS, because of the enhanced liquidity and transparency fostered by the comprehensive amendments adopted in 2010, these changes appear to have help MMMFs endure recent periods of market turbulence without incident or systemic risk; and

WHEREAS, while state and local governments are supportive of changes that will strengthen the market and improve the quality of securities, some of the additional changes being discussed would undermine the value and utility of Money Market Mutual Funds as well as the municipal bond market; and

WHEREAS, one of the modifications being discussed is changing the stable net asset value (NAV), which is the hallmark of money market mutual funds (MMMF), to a floating net asset value that would be very harmful to state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, forcing funds to float their value would likely eliminate the market for those products by forcing investors, including state and local governments, to divest their MMMF holdings as well as discourage others from using these funds; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments look to MMMF as an integral part of their cash management practice because they are highly regulated, have minimal risk and are easily booked; and

WHEREAS, in the fourth quarter of 2012, state and local governments held \$119 billion in MMMFs; and

WHEREAS, many state and local governments have specific policies or statutes that mandate investing in financial products with stable values, and MMMFs are the investment they use to ensure compliance with these policies and statutes; and

WHEREAS, MMMFs are also related to the municipal bond market in that in the fourth quarter of 2012 they were the largest investor in short-term municipal bonds (with \$322 billion in short-term municipal debt securities, which accounts for 76% all outstanding short-term municipal debt),

WHEREAS, changing net asset value from fixed to floating would make MMMFs far less attractive to investors and have an extremely disruptive effect on the investing market as well as the municipal bond market, which could ultimately cost state and local governments millions of more dollars as the would

be forced to turn to more costly – and/or more risky – investments as well as face higher costs for issuing debt due to shrinking demand for the market, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges the Securities and Exchange Commission not to make changes to the NAV or any further regulatory changes that would disrupt the existing structure of and characteristics of MMMFs and limit choices for state and local governments businesses and other investors, with far reaching consequences for the American economy.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING CHANGE OF MUNICIPAL SECURITIES DEFINITION IN THE VOLCKER RULE

WHEREAS, the Volcker Rule is a specific component (Section 619) of the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act originally formulated, in part, by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker; and

WHEREAS, the Volcker Rule essentially aims to restrict commercial banks from engaging in speculative transactions that do not directly benefit their customers; and

WHEREAS, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Federal Reserve were tasked with designing the specific rulemaking that would implement the Volcker Rule and issued a proposed form of the Rule for public comment which closed on January 13, 2012 ; and

WHEREAS, the regulations are schedule to go into effect on July 21, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule seeks to exempt municipal securities from the section related to banking institutions engaging in certain proprietary trading activities in keeping with the statute and Congress' intent; and

WHEREAS, the proposed rule defines “municipal obligations” too narrowly as “obligations of states and political subdivisions thereof” which is under-inclusive and differs from the well-established and relied upon definition of municipal securities that is found in the Securities Act of 1934; and

WHEREAS, if made final, the definition in the proposed rule would exclude thousands of municipal securities, disrupting the municipal market and raising costs for state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, given that one of the principal purposes behind the Volcker Rule is to mitigate risk, the lack of uniformity would unfairly treat economically similar debt instruments differently from one another for the purposes of municipal securities trading; and

WHEREAS, expanding the definition of municipal security in the Volcker Rule would pose no additional risk to banks or the banking system as municipal securities are among the safest assets in the US capital markets,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that those agencies tasked with the final rulemaking amend the definition of municipal securities in the proposed rule and have it align with the common definition of municipal securities found in the Securities Act of 1934 that has served for the past 80 years.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF CRITICAL U.S. CENSUS BUREAU SURVEYS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau serves as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau is authorized by the U.S. Constitution and Federal law to collect and disseminate data guided by scientific objectivity to provide information about the Nation; and

WHEREAS, Title 13 of the United States Code requires the Census Bureau to keep information strictly confidential; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a host of surveys to collect and distribute data to policy makers at all levels of governments, including but not limited to the American Community Survey, Economic Census, and Census of Governments; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau implemented the American Community Survey (ACS) to collect data on demographic, housing, social, economic, and financial characteristics all cities; and

WHEREAS, the data collected by the ACS ensures that mayors and other policymakers have the most current information for policy development, allocation of funds, and program evaluation; and

WHEREAS, ACS estimates provide America's cities data that the business community use for investment and hiring decisions, resulting in job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, local firefighters, police officers, and other emergency personnel use ACS estimates for natural disaster planning and response; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Census is collected every 5 years – in years ending in “2” and “7” –to provide reliable business statistics that are essential to understanding the American economy every; and

WHEREAS, only the Economic Census provides information on industry revenues and other measures of American business performance that are consistent, comparable, and comprehensive across industries and geographic areas; and

WHEREAS, government agencies, trade associations and chambers of commerce and businesses in America's cities rely on data from the Economic Census for economic development, business decisions, planning and key economic reports; and

WHEREAS, the Economic Census provides America’s cities information on comparative and trend data used to identify business expansion opportunities in local communities; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts the Census of Governments every 5 years – in years ending in “2” and “7” – of all state and local governments, which includes organizational data, employment data, and finance data; and

WHEREAS, the Census of Governments is the only source of comprehensive uniform statistics on state and local governments; and

WHEREAS, the Census of Governments data are used to calculate the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and to better understanding the current fiscal condition of America’s cities,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the U.S. Census Bureau’s mission to produce complete and accurate data that meet the needs of America’s cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the U.S. Census Bureau’s use of sound scientific and objective methods to apply statistical samplings, conduct surveys, and collect preliminary and supplemental statistics; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors promotes the U.S. Census Bureau’s authority to collect data that provides timely estimates that inform America’s mayors in their decision-making; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors recognizes the importance of the American Community Survey, Economic Census, Census of Governments, and a number of other surveys and statistics to cities across the Nation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports funding for and robust implementation of the American Community Survey, Economic Census, Census of Governments, and other relevant surveys and statistics to cities across the Nation; and

FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED, that the nation’s mayors urges members of Congress to oppose legislation that would make the American Community Survey a voluntary survey, as well as any bills that would eliminate the American Community Survey, Economic Census, Census of Governments, and other surveys and statistics relevant to America’s cities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF REPATRIATING CORPORATE EARNINGS TO BUILD
INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has always shown a strong commitment to investment in United States infrastructure, which creates jobs and improves communities; and

WHEREAS, according the research firm Audit Analytics, US Corporations increased their offshore earnings last year by 15% to a record \$1.9 trillion; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2013 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure, U.S. Infrastructure has a cumulative grade of “D+” with an estimated \$ 3.6 trillion investment needed by 2020; and

WHEREAS, Congress has introduced legislation like the Partnership to Build America Act that would finance the rebuilding of our country’s transportation, energy, communications, water, and education infrastructure through the creation of an infrastructure fund using repatriated corporate earnings as well as through utilizing public-private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, such legislation would create the American Infrastructure Fund (AIF) which would provide loans or guarantees to state or local governments to finance qualified infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, AIF will be funded by the sale of \$50 billion worth of Infrastructure Bonds which would have a 50-year term, pay a fixed interest rate of 1 percent, and U.S. corporations would be incentivized to purchase these new Infrastructure Bonds through the repatriation of corporate earnings; and

WHEREAS, the AIF would leverage the \$50 billion of Infrastructure Bonds at a 15:1 ratio to provide up to \$750 billion in loans or guarantees; and

WHEREAS, legislation like this would provide increased resources for financing of infrastructure, while not contributing to the federal debt; and

WHEREAS, such legislation is estimated to provide a path for approximately \$200 billion, or 10 percent of corporate earnings to return to the United States,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts like these in the Partnership to Build America Act that would provide competitive financing to improve infrastructure in the United States through the repatriating of corporate earnings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that support for this or similar legislation should not be used in any way to replace or undermine the full federal funding infrastructure projects or tax exempt status for municipal bonds which are vital tools in improving infrastructure in the United States.

Projected Cost: None

SUPPORTING LOCAL HIRING & LOCAL PROCUREMENT OF GOODS & SERVICES A NEW NATIONAL MODEL FOR INVESTMENT

WHEREAS, on February 26, 2013, Mayor Frank G. Jackson of the City of Cleveland signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), creating the foundation for a public-private partnership with key business, civic, labor, and trade organizations that can serve as a national model; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships are working to grow local economies by serving as a model for economic growth through training, jobs creation, and contracting opportunities for local residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, investment of federal tax dollars for all construction related projects should stimulate local economies by ensuring equitable job opportunities for all citizens and creating economic sustainability in the regions where the public investment is taking place; and

WHEREAS, allowing local government decision making authority when communities receive funding from the federal government and various federal agencies is the best way of utilizing public-private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, this historic new federal guidelines will assist in driving investment in local communities in a way that creates direct benefits for local residents and businesses by increasing pre-apprentice and apprenticeship training opportunities, connecting qualified local residents with good job opportunities by adopting First Source Hiring, increasing the utilization of minority, female, and small locally owned business enterprises (MBE/FBE/SBE), and convening a committee to monitor progress,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT The United States Conference of Mayors Affirms its Support for:

- a. Making local hiring and local procurement of goods and services the new national model for how we invest critical federal government spending; and
- b. Clear and specific legislative language regarding the hiring of local residents and encouraging the procurement of local goods and services; and
- c. Ensuring that local communities are required to receive the opportunity to participate on public sector funded construction projects is the best way to create thousands of American construction-related jobs.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING THE REINSTATEMENT OF THE SUPERFUND TAX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Projected Cost: Unknown

CHARITABLE TAX REFORM

WHEREAS, nonprofit arts organizations serve the needs of people and community partners through education, artistry, economic development, and social service programs serving the poor; and

WHEREAS, the arts communicate across religious, ethnic, and political divides, both at home and abroad; explore civic issues; create human and social services programs; provide in-school and afterschool programs for children, as well as lifelong learning for all; preserve our heritage; create jobs and economic growth; and add immeasurably to the quality of life in our communities through vibrant artistry; and

WHEREAS, nonprofits fill an important role that cities cannot otherwise perform to serve the broader needs of the community; and

WHEREAS, preserving full tax incentives for individual charitable giving will sustain nonprofit services, provide a net benefit to the public, and place less of a burden on local governments; and

WHEREAS, according to the Charitable Giving Coalition, for every \$1 dollar in deductions claimed by individual donors, the general public receives \$3 in services; and

WHEREAS, diminishing charitable giving incentives will have lasting, harmful consequences for nonprofit services and jobs. Charitable giving is a significant revenue source for a broad range of nonprofit organizations, which cannot withstand even slight declines in contributions given the fragility of all revenue sources; and

WHEREAS, up to 40 percent of financial support for nonprofit performing arts organizations is derived from charitable giving. Without this support, public access to high quality arts programming would be greatly diminished; and

WHEREAS, proposed changes to cap the charitable tax deduction at 28 percent (instead of keeping it tied to a donor's marginal rate) will reduce giving by \$5.6 billion per year. While the initial charitable impulse to give often comes "from the heart," history has shown that donors do respond to tax law changes by altering what, when, and how much they give; and

WHEREAS, A 2012 public opinion poll commissioned by the United Way found that most Americans (79 percent) believe reducing or eliminating the charitable tax deduction would have a negative impact on charities and the people they serve,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to preserve existing incentives for charitable giving by protecting the charitable tax deduction from rate caps or other new limitations;
and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors rejects any attempts to divide the charitable sector which would create a hierarchy of tax deductibility favoring certain types of charities over others.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit implements a long-standing and successful national policy of preserving our historic resources; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is a proven job creating, community revitalizing investment in cities throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is the most significant federal financial commitment to historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is a government program that more than pays for itself, with the cumulative \$20.5 billion cost of federal historic tax credits having generated \$25.9 billion in federal taxes from the projects facilitated by the credits; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit has catalyzed the rehabilitation of 38,700 buildings, created 2.35 million jobs; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is responsible for generating over \$106 billion in new investment in historic rehabilitation in communities throughout the nation; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit helps to define our national identity and heritage while promoting economic development and revitalizing local communities; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is a successful market-based approach to revitalizing communities through the reuse of historic resources; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit promotes sustainable building practices by recycling old buildings, which reduces landfill waste and saves energy by reusing existing materials rather than manufacturing new building components; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit stimulates the local economy with over three-quarters of the economic benefits generated by rehabilitation remaining in the local communities and states where the projects are located; and

WHEREAS, proposed enhancements to the Federal Historic Tax Credit would: support smaller “Main Street” projects; eliminate federal taxation of State historic tax credits; encourage energy efficiency; facilitate nonprofit sponsorship of historic tax credit projects; and restore the initial Congressional intent to make buildings that are 50 years old, rather than only those built prior to 1936, eligible for the 10 percent rehabilitation credit,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the goals of the Federal Historic Tax Credit because of the well documented economic and job benefits to the nation's cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors specifically supports the continued use and enhancement of the Federal Historic Tax Credit and its continued operation in the U.S. tax code.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ENDING HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS

WHEREAS, men and women who served in the United States armed services have made extraordinary sacrifices to serve this nation and should not experience homelessness; and

WHEREAS, ending homelessness for Veterans and their families is critical to Mayors and cities as it will reduce the inefficient usage of costly health care services and emergency shelters, as well as enhance the ability of Veterans to positively contribute to their communities and increase economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, preventing and ending homelessness among Veterans by 2015 is a national priority that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and its federal partners, including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), have taken decisive action to achieve; and

WHEREAS, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness on a single night decreased by 18 percent between 2010 and 2012 due to unprecedented collaboration and investment in effective strategies; and

WHEREAS, despite this progress, there were an estimated 62,619 homeless Veterans on a single night in January 2012 in the United States; and

WHEREAS, some communities have demonstrated even greater reductions in Veterans homelessness and will end homelessness among Veterans through decisive and collaborative leadership that adopts evidence-informed practices such as Housing First, strategically uses data, effectively targets resources that match services with individual needs, drives community collaborations, and taps other public resources such as Medicaid, Social Security, and public schools; and

WHEREAS, Mayors who are in the front lines dealing with homelessness in their communities can be significant and critical partners in the goal of ending Veterans homelessness by 2015,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors re-commits to the goal of ending homelessness among the nation's Veterans by 2015, as described in *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors affirms the value of recent federal investments in effective programs, such as the HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program and the Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayors should contact their Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) directors to establish a partnership between their city and the VAMC that integrates and aligns the VAMC's Five Year Plan to End Homelessness Among Veterans with the community's plans to end homelessness; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mayors should work in partnership with their local VAMCs and homeless crisis response system to do the following:

- Identify homeless and at-risk Veteran families and link them to needed services; and
- Adopt a Veteran-centric approach that provides the right intervention at the right time to make resources go further and improve outcomes; and
- Implement evidenced-informed strategies that return Veterans and their families to housing quickly such as Housing First, permanent supportive housing, and rapid re-housing; and
- Set goals and measure progress; and
- Share and use data strategically; and
- Drive community collaborations; and
- Tap mainstream services such as Medicaid and Social Security; and
- Identify housing in the community and outreach to landlords; and
- Encourage local philanthropy and businesses to participate in these efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages policies and practices in both the private and public sectors that support employment of Veterans and encourages greater access to affordable housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges comprehensive solutions and increased investments in evidenced-informed strategies by all levels of government, philanthropy, businesses, faith-based and community organizations to prevent and end homelessness among Veterans.

Projected Cost: Unknown

THE REQUEST FOR MAYORS TO ASSUME THE PURPLE HEART DESIGNATION IN U.S. CITIES, CAPITAL CITIES, AND U.S. TERRITORIES

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart is a combat decoration awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces, who die or become wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy; the Purple Heart is also awarded posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action; and

WHEREAS, the Purple Heart was initially created as the Badge of Military Merit by General George Washington in 1782; the Purple Heart is the first American service award or decoration made available to the common soldier, and is the oldest military decoration in present use; and

WHEREAS, the organization now known as the "Military Order of the Purple Heart" was formed in 1932; for the protection and mutual interest of all who have received the decoration composed exclusively of Purple Heart recipients. The Military Order of the Purple Heart is the only veterans service organization comprised strictly of "combat" veterans; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill among the combat-wounded veteran members and their families, promote patriotism, support legislative initiatives, and most importantly make sure that Americans never forget to recognize the price that servicemen and women have paid for our nation's freedom; and

WHEREAS, all members of The United States Conference of Mayors and the Conference's Veterans' Taskforce intend to place special attention towards recognizing Purple Heart recipients throughout this nation, and advocate a unified stance by labeling U.S. Cities, Capital Cities, and U.S. Territories with the "Purple Heart" designation; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors appreciates the sacrifices that our Purple Heart recipients made in defending our freedom, and believe it is important that we acknowledge them for their courage and show them the honor and support that they have earned; and

WHEREAS, Mayor John R. Marks, III, Trustee Member of The United States Conference of Mayors, and Mayor of the City of Tallahassee presented a proclamation on September 12, 2012 recognizing the City of Tallahassee as a "Purple Heart Capital City"; and

WHEREAS, there is no cost requirement for this designation, the only thing required is a constructed resolution or proclamation that will recognize your city, capital city, or U.S. Territory as a "Purple Heart" community, and cities are encouraged to invest in signage that may further promote strong dedication to Purple Heart Veterans, at their own discretion,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages all U.S. Cities, U.S. Capital Cities and Territories to assume the “Purple Heart” designation and ask that all citizens show their appreciation for the sacrifices that our Purple Heart recipients have made.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ARTS & HEALTH IN THE MILITARY

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is eternally grateful for the men and woman who have served to protect freedom around the world and who have put themselves in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, the arts and culture serve as a resource to assist returning veterans and their families as they recover from their physical or mental wounds and/or incorporate back into civilian life by providing arts in healing services and programs; and

WHEREAS, creative arts in healthcare includes the professional disciplines of art therapy, music therapy, dance therapy, drama therapy, and poetry therapy, as well as artist-directed applications of visual, literary and performing arts, and design within a wide variety of healthcare and community settings for therapeutic, educational, and expressive purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Arts & Health in the Military National Roundtable was convened by Americans for the Arts and the Global Alliance for Arts & Health, and held at the Kennedy Center on November 15, 2012 where a group of military, government, private sector and nonprofit leaders gathered to discuss arts and health in the military; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the National Summit on Arts in Healing for Warriors was held at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) marking the first time that various branches of the military collaborated with civilian agencies to discuss how engaging with the arts provide opportunities to meet the key health issues our military faces – from pre-deployment to deployment to homecoming; and

WHEREAS, funding for creative arts and arts therapy demonstration projects, services, and multi-site research within the Veterans Affairs Hospitals and on military bases will provide for increased access to affordable and outcome-based healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the development of training programs for artists and healthcare professionals to provide services to active, returning, and retired members of the military and their families will reduce barriers to the initiation of arts programming throughout the military; and

WHEREAS, the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) and the Creative Arts Program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, which includes art therapy, music therapy, and a writing program for veterans with PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury, is demonstrating the successful integration of arts therapies and creative arts in critical healthcare programming; and

WHEREAS, military treatment facilities in various parts of the country are currently employing the creative arts in therapy and treatment programs for recovering military veterans; and

WHEREAS, research outcomes for creative arts therapies programs include improved quality and effectiveness of care, enhanced psychosocial and physical health, decreased agitation, increased response to rehabilitation treatment, and improved caregiver coping skills; and

WHEREAS, increasing public and private sector funding for program development, implementation and evaluation will aid in the sustainability of programs that have proven effective,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Health Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services and other key federal agencies and their private sector and nonprofit partners to adopt the recommendations included in the Arts & Health in the Military Blue Print for Action funded by the David Rockefeller Fund that addresses the inclusion of arts in wellness and building resilience; the concept of person-centered care, that one size does not fit all; timeline variations for wounded service members; and healing as a lifelong process that includes community reintegration and transition into employment and/or educational opportunities, aging, and end of life; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to designate funding to Department of Defense, TRICARE, and Veterans Affairs for Demonstration Projects for veterans and active military, increasing access to cost-effective creative arts services in healthcare treatment and programming for all military service men and women, veterans, their families and caregivers, in communities across the country.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
RETIREMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors, with the support of mayors across the country, assisted in writing the legislation for 457(b) deferred compensation programs in 1977; and

WHEREAS, at the request of mayors, The United States Conference of Mayors has provided for 35 years a 457(b) program for the nation's public employees; and

WHEREAS, the majority of public sector employees will not have enough money saved combined with pensions to have a safe and secure retirement; and

WHEREAS, public sector employees rely on their employer to provide information about adequate retirement savings and the vehicles in which to enhance their savings; and

WHEREAS, the staff of The United States Conference of Mayors conducted a thorough review of the 457(b) marketplace, and took steps to improve and re-brand The United States Conference of Mayors Retirement Program; and

WHEREAS, the new partnership with Great-West Financial, in its first 6 months, was a finalist for Public Defined Contribution Plan Sponsor of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors Retirement Program has been and will continue to be a crucial source of support for the entirety of the Conference; and

WHEREAS, fiduciary training for city plan sponsors is a vital need for cities to protect themselves from the liabilities of plan malpractice; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors Retirement Program has been and will continue to be an effective tool for providing cutting edge retirement best practice and fiduciary education to mayors and their city staff; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors Retirement Program is a national leader in plan governance, providing full transparency to plan sponsors and participants; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors Retirement Program will continue to conduct an annual review using marketplace data and city feedback to benchmark the program and ensure a best value offering is provided to all cities,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors acknowledge the importance of supplemental retirement savings and will encourage their employees to utilize these programs in their cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors support the regular review and analysis of their city's supplemental retirement programs to ensure the needs of employees are being met at the best price possible; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors support the growth and promotion of The United States Conference of Mayors Retirement Program among America's cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the nation's mayors call upon the staff of The United States Conference of Mayors to continue providing this valuable program and the best practices it supports.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE REGULATORY STREAMLINING AND REFORM

WHEREAS, the federal regulatory system must protect public health, welfare, safety and the environment while promoting economic growth, innovation, competitiveness and job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act of 2012 (MAP-21) included reforms to reduce project delivery time and costs; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources and Development Act (WRDA) reauthorization recently approved by the Senate includes reforms to accelerate Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) project approvals and delivery processes; and

WHEREAS, the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform placed the issue of regulatory reform as a high priority, seeking input from business, individuals and industries regarding the impediments to navigating the bureaucracy; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed a plan to re-organize American government to help small business by eliminating or combining government agencies such as those in the Commerce Department; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, President Obama issued executive orders calling for top to bottom review of federal regulations and permitting processes to get rid of outdated and harmful rules and to reduce the time required to make review and permitting decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Transit Administration has expedited pending large projects and is reviewing the way America's transit projects are evaluated, including environmental reviews, in order to speed up the New Starts process and focus on transit options that fit local needs; and

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2013, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum directing the modernization of review and permitting regulations, policies, and procedures for the Departments of Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Transportation, Energy, and Homeland Security; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; the Department of the Army; the Council on Environmental Quality; and other applicable agencies; and

WHEREAS, local governments and the private sector both often struggle with a "one size fits all" regulatory framework, redundant and inconsistent regulations and unnecessary delays in major project approval and processes,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages Congress and the Administration to continue to undertake a comprehensive review of burdensome regulations, and streamline and expedite the federal permitting process for major projects in order to promote job creation, advance economic development and facilitate interaction with the federal government.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF POLICIES FOR SHAREABLE CITIES

WHEREAS, economic instability has led to increased unemployment in U.S. cities, where income and wages have stagnated for most Americans while productivity has surged; over the past thirty years the median US family income has only grown at an annual rate of 0.36%, while the overall economy has grown at a rate of 2.66%; and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans living in isolation has doubled since 1985, particularly amongst the elderly, as the strength of neighborhood community relationships has declined in both urban and suburban areas; and

WHEREAS, an emerging Sharing Economy is redefining the ways that goods and services are exchanged, valued and created amongst citizens by enabling affordable access as an alternative to ownership; and

WHEREAS, the placement and monetization of underutilized assets into Sharing Economy marketplaces empowers citizens to find new ways of providing jobs, housing, transportation, food, and improved lifestyles for themselves; provides additional income for households and local businesses; makes city living more affordable; and generates reinvestment in communities; and

WHEREAS, this access to new economic opportunities promotes greater entrepreneurship and the creation of new small enterprises, two aspects of urban life in which cities have invested significant resources to date; and

WHEREAS, various forms of sharing amongst residents, neighbors and colleagues can strengthen community ties which leads to greater resilience in times of economic and environmental stress; and

WHEREAS, many cities have pioneered the Sharing Economy over the past several decades with great success through models such as car- and bicycle-sharing, ridesharing, co-working, consumer cooperatives, home-swapping and sharing, and tool lending libraries, thus providing access to items and space that previously might have been prohibitively expensive to some citizens; and

WHEREAS, new technology platforms and social tools have enabled even more citizens to connect with each other in order to access new economic opportunities by monetizing and sharing their underutilized assets; and

WHEREAS, Sharing Economy companies have proven to be engines of innovation and job creation, driving economic development in the hearts of American cities, where joblessness is still most pervasive; and

WHEREAS, the Sharing Economy can improve and make more cost-effective traditional approaches for managing overall growth and urbanization, integrating

transportation solutions, reducing crime, designing urban spaces, creating jobs, and providing a variety of public services for citizens; and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of a disaster, Sharing Economy platforms can open up access to untapped supplies of housing, transportation, other goods and skills to aid in response and recovery efforts, addressing the needs of survivors during a critical time; and

WHEREAS, balanced, equitable and clear regulation of the Sharing Economy will ensure greater compliance and benefits to a broader, more diverse population,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges support for making cities more shareable by (1) encouraging a better understanding of the Sharing Economy and its benefits to both the public and private sectors by creating more robust and standardized methods for measuring its impacts in cities; (2) creating local task forces to review and address regulations that may hinder participants in the Sharing Economy and proposing revisions that ensure public protection as well; and (3) playing an active role in making appropriate publicly owned assets available for maximum utilization by the general public through proven sharing mechanisms.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF PRESCHOOL FOR ALL FOUR YEAR OLDS IN LOW AND MODERATE INCOME FAMILIES; IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDED CARE FOR INFANTS AND TODDLERS THROUGH EARLY HEAD START AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS; IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL MANDATORY FUNDING TO EXTEND AND EXPAND CURRENT FEDERAL INVESTMENTS IN HOME VISITATION PROGRAM; ALL OF WHICH ARE PAID FOR AN INCREASE IN TOBACCO EXCISE TAXES

WHEREAS, fewer than three in ten 4-year olds are enrolled in high quality preschool programs today; and

WHEREAS, the United States devotes less public spending to early learning as a percentage of GDP than 24 countries; and

WHEREAS, children from low-income families start kindergarten 12 to 14 months behind their peers in language development and pre-reading; and

WHEREAS, research has shown that the early years in a child's life is critical to brain development and early education programs build critical academic, social and cognitive skills which are necessary for physical, emotional and social development; and

WHEREAS, high-quality preschool has been proven to reduce placements in special education, reduce grade retention, boost graduation rates, decrease teen pregnancy rates, and increase the odds of holding a job over the long term; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program provides at home visits for up to 570,000 families each year; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program has been proven to reduce problems such as emergency room hospitalizations, intensive care for victims of trauma, child welfare investigations, violent crime and juvenile delinquency; and

WHEREAS, the home visitation program helps families with appropriate prenatal care, improve family diet, and reduces use of tobacco, alcohol, and illegal substances; and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposes increasing the federal excise tax on cigarettes from \$1.01 per pack to \$1.95 per pack and that increase would be indexed for inflation after 2014; and

WHEREAS, the effect of cigarette taxes on smoking has been studied extensively; and increasing real price of cigarettes by 10% reduces the number of young adult smokers by 3.5 percent and reduces the number of kids who smoke by 7 percent; and

WHEREAS, smoking costs the United States \$96 billion in medical costs and \$97 billion in lost productivity each; and

WHEREAS, cigarette smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke kill an estimated 443,000 people in the United States each year; and

WHEREAS, approximately 8.6 million people in the United States have chronic illnesses related to smoking; and

WHEREAS, the Administration proposes to create a continuum of high-quality early learning services for children beginning at birth and through age five by providing preschool for all four year olds in low and moderate income families, for expanded care for infants and toddlers through Early Head Start and Child Care programs and additional mandatory funding to extend and expand current federal investments in home visitation programs funded by an increase in the tobacco excise tax,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors fully supports providing preschool for all four year olds in low and moderate income families; the expanded child care of infants and toddlers through Early Head Start and Child Care programs; and additional mandatory funding to extend and expand current federal investments in home visitation program; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that The United States Conference of Mayors strongly urges Congress to pass legislation in which revenues generated by a tax increase in the per-pack price of cigarettes be used specifically for the following activities:

- chronic disease prevention and control; and
- medical research, particularly research related to the addictive and other effects of tobacco on the human body; and
- child health programs, early childhood education and home visitation program.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF THE RENEWAL OF THE FEDERAL BROWNFIELDS TAX
DEDUCTION**

WHEREAS, the Brownfield Remediation Tax Deduction was enacted in 1997, largely in response to calls from the nation's mayors for tax incentives to help local communities cleanup and reuse brownfield sites; and

WHEREAS, the current law expired in 2011, the consequence of which is that brownfields remain idle in communities across the country because private parties who conduct cleanups after December 31, 2011 cannot take the deduction; and

WHEREAS, in 2000, the nation's mayors and other interested parties called upon Congress to simplify and extend the expiration of the original Brownfield Remediation Tax Deduction, and Congress responded by passing legislation to accomplish those objectives; and

WHEREAS, private parties in numerous communities have taken advantage of this tax incentive which allows cleanup costs to be "expensed" (i.e., deducted against tax liability in the year the costs are incurred) at sites where there has been an actual release, threat of release or disposal of a hazardous substance; and

WHEREAS, due to the fact that there are several hundred thousand brownfield sites in communities throughout the country, the nation's mayor's believe it is important to advance the cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields; and

WHEREAS, the nation's mayors recognize that the Brownfield Remediation Tax Deduction is a valuable tool that encourages brownfield cleanups in the nation's communities; and

WHEREAS, parties at more than 350 sites in over 38 states have cleaned up contaminated sites and brought jobs and economic development to communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, the redevelopment of these formerly underused sites has brought housing, retail, business, and office space and boosted government tax revenue for communities across the country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors hereby urges Congress to enact legislation to renew the Brownfield Remediation Tax Deduction for a period of years for communities nationwide.

REGIONAL EXPORT CHALLENGE GRANTS

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors has long-standing policy endorsing the importance of increasing exports to drive sustainable economic growth in cities and metropolitan areas, which generate nearly 85% of all national exports; and

WHEREAS, export assistance typically is fragmented, reactive, and not integrated into local economic development strategies; and

WHEREAS, coalitions of regional business, government, and civic leaders are addressing that problem through the creation of Metropolitan Export Plans that apply local market knowledge and connections to target promising industry clusters and firms; coordinate disparate assistance providers; and refocus limited resources for maximum returns; and

WHEREAS, former United States Conference of Mayors President Antonio Villaraigosa issued an “Export-Ready Metro Challenge” for at least 25 mayors to catalyze export plans in their regions by the end of 2013; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors passed a resolution in 2011 to “urge federal agencies to invest in helping localities create and implement Metropolitan Export Plans, customized to the economic characteristics of each region, detailing export goals, strategies, and implementation programs and products”; and

WHEREAS, the President’s Export Council, comprised primarily of national business leaders, issued a policy recommendation in June 2012 that encouraged the Obama Administration “to create a sustainable program for individual metropolitan areas to develop export strategies that fully take advantage of their individualized assets and optimize communication and interaction between state, local, and federal authorities”; and

WHEREAS, the Administration’s National Export Strategy for 2011 and 2012 both highlighted federal agency support for Metropolitan Export Plans as a priority initiative; and

WHEREAS, at least 13 metropolitan areas of diverse size, economic profiles, and geographies have initiated or completed regional export planning efforts, with dozens more expressing interest in doing so; and

WHEREAS, undertaking regional export strategies is a new and non-traditional activity for local economic developers, so securing funds for planning and to begin implementation has proven difficult, given competition for limited resources and lack of familiarity; and

WHEREAS, to address this seed funding problem, the Brookings Institution released a detailed policy paper recommending the U.S. Department of Commerce establish a temporary competitive grant program to seed the creation of a start-up of metro export plans, totaling \$25 million over two years; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY2014 Budget for the Economic Development Administration then proposed a new "Regional Export Challenge (REC) grant program of \$12 million per year (offset) to "support regions...that develop and implement sustainable export action plans to proactively identify and support firms and sectors with the greatest export potential,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the Congress to fully fund the proposed Regional Export Challenge grant program in FY2014.

Projected Cost: \$12 million in FY2014, but offset by reductions across other EDA program accounts as proposed in the President's Budget.

TOURISM, ARTS, PARKS, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS COMMITTEE

ARTS AND HEALING

WHEREAS, according to the 2009 report, *Arts in Healthcare* by the **Global Alliance for Arts & Health**, the creative arts in health and wellness demonstrate the positive impact these services have on patient outcomes and healthcare cost savings; and

WHEREAS, creative arts therapies have been used as effective interventions in comprehensive mental health care programs for more than 70 years, using various art forms as a means of communication and expression; and

WHEREAS, the Arts in Healthcare report demonstrates that creative arts in healthcare interventions can contribute to the following positive outcomes when services are integrated into medical treatment and community prevention and wellness programs, including reduced lengths of hospital stays, decreased need for multiple medical visits, reduced levels of depression and stress, decreased need for use of sedatives during medical procedures and decreased use of medical interventions covered by Medicare among the aging; and

WHEREAS, creative arts therapies can help facilitate the purposes of the Mental Health in Schools Act by providing school-based mental health services and support; by providing comprehensive staff development for school and community service personnel working in the school; and by providing training for children with mental health disorders, for parents, siblings, and other family members of such children, and for concerned members of the community; and

WHEREAS, the creative arts therapies offer supportive services to students, families, and personnel within the educational community. Therapists are able to positively impact mental health by utilizing non-threatening arts interventions to address inappropriate social behaviors, improve communication and socialization, provide successful tools to decrease barriers to learning, increase student compliance, and enhance academic performance; and

WHEREAS, treatment outcomes of creative arts therapies include strengthened coping strategies, successful and safe emotional release, increased verbalization, reduced muscle tension, and improved group cohesiveness,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors acknowledges the benefits of incorporating creative arts therapies into all forms of health care as a method to improve the quality and experience of health care delivery and to lower costs; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to support funding for creative arts in healthcare research priorities within the federal agencies involved with the Arts and Human Development Interagency Task Force, including the National Institutes of Health, Administration on Aging, and the Department of Education; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to support the Mental Health in Schools Act, S.195, sponsored by Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) and H.R. 628 sponsored by Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA), which will provide a comprehensive system for education and healthcare providers, such as creative arts therapists, to improve access to mental health services and support for students, families, school personnel, and communities.

Projected Costs: Unknown

ARTS EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) recognizes the arts as a core academic subject, allowing federal K-12 funds to support arts education; and

WHEREAS, such federal funds include Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as authorized through ESEA, as well as funds for teacher training and professional development, technology, after-school and summer programs, and much more; and

WHEREAS, Congress affirmed the importance of arts education by establishing a dedicated arts education program at the U.S. Department of Education to complement existing programs of the National Endowment for the Arts; and

WHEREAS, a child's education is not complete unless it includes the arts; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Education's most recent study on the status of arts education found that 1.3 million elementary school students fail to get any music instruction, 4 million students fail to get any visual art instruction and 23 million students fail to receive instruction in theater and dance; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Education called the arts opportunity gap the widest for children in high-poverty schools and cited it as an absolute equity and civil rights issue; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts report "The Arts and Achievement in At-Risk Youth" found that high-poverty students who had an arts-rich education were found to have better grade point averages, lower drop-out rates in high-school, more likely to enroll in college and get better grades in college than high-poverty students with little arts education; and

WHEREAS, performance results from the federal Arts In Education program demonstrate the ability of arts integration to boost achievement results among low-income and minority students; and

WHEREAS, local arts agencies, artists, and arts institutions and organizations stand ready and willing to work with school districts and teachers to improve arts education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that members of The United States Conference of Mayors urge local school districts and administrators to maximize the use of federal education funds available through the above-named programs, as well as state funds, to deliver high-quality arts instruction and to integrate the arts with other core subjects:

- We call on Congress to hold hearings on arts education and develop policy to strengthen the arts in the reauthorization of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act; and
- We further urge Congress to appropriate a minimum of \$30 million for the Arts In Education program, which will support the further development and dissemination of effective models for improving the quantity and quality of arts education; and
- We call on school leaders to advance policies and resources that ensure access to arts education for all students—delivered by certified arts educators—that develop artistic literacy through a sequential, standards-based arts curriculum; and
- We urge school leaders to ensure that all students have access to in-school and community arts learning opportunities that support and add value to a standards-based PK-12 education; and
- We call on our communities to foster proactive, long-term advocacy collaborations among certified arts educators, community arts providers, and certified non-arts educators that engage parents, school leaders, and other key stakeholders to support student access to high-quality arts education throughout the school and community.

Projected Cost: Unknown

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART AND MATHEMATICS (STEAM) EDUCATION

WHEREAS, the innovative practices of art and design play an essential role in improving Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education and advancing STEM research; and

WHEREAS, art and design provide real solutions for our everyday lives, distinguish United States products in a global marketplace, and create opportunity for economic growth; and

WHEREAS, artists and designers can effectively communicate complex data and scientific information to multiple stakeholders and broad audiences; and

WHEREAS, the tools and methods of design offer new models for creative problem-solving and interdisciplinary partnerships in a changing world; and

WHEREAS, artists and designers are playing an integral role in the development of modern technology; and

WHEREAS, artists and designers are playing a key role in manufacturing; and

WHEREAS, a new Congressional STEAM Caucus was created on January 28, 2013, with the Co-Chairs being Representative Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR), and Representative Aaron Schock (R-IL); and

WHEREAS, renowned cellist and arts education advocate Yo-Yo Ma at the 2013 Americans for the Arts Nancy Hanks Lecture on Arts and Public Policy called on policy makers nationwide to include the arts in STEM education,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to:

- Recognize the importance of art and design in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields; and
- Include art and design in the STEM fields during reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Higher Education Act; and
- Join Representatives Bonamici and Schock as a member of the STEAM Caucus providing leadership to the House of Representative on this issue.

Projected Cost: Unknown

ARTS & HEALTH IN THE MILITARY

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors is eternally grateful for the men and woman who have served to protect freedom around the world and who have put themselves in harm's way; and

WHEREAS, the arts and culture serve as a resource to assist returning veterans and their families as they recover from their physical or mental wounds and/or incorporate back into civilian life by providing arts in healing services and programs; and

WHEREAS, creative arts in healthcare includes the professional disciplines of art therapy, music therapy, dance therapy, drama therapy, and poetry therapy, as well as artist-directed applications of visual, literary and performing arts, and design within a wide variety of healthcare and community settings for therapeutic, educational, and expressive purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Arts & Health in the Military National Roundtable was convened by Americans for the Arts and the Global Alliance for Arts & Health, and held at the Kennedy Center on November 15, 2012 where a group of military, government, private sector and nonprofit leaders gathered to discuss arts and health in the military; and

WHEREAS, in 2011, the National Summit on Arts in Healing for Warriors was held at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) and the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) marking the first time that various branches of the military collaborated with civilian agencies to discuss how engaging with the arts provide opportunities to meet the key health issues our military faces – from pre-deployment to deployment to homecoming; and

WHEREAS, funding for creative arts and arts therapy demonstration projects services, and multi-site research within the Veterans Affairs Hospitals and on military bases will provide for increased access to affordable and outcome-based healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the development of training programs for artists and healthcare professionals to provide services to active, returning, and retired members of the military and their families will reduce barriers to the initiation of arts programming throughout the military; and

WHEREAS, the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) and the Creative Arts Program at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, which includes art therapy, music therapy, and a writing program for veterans with PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury, is demonstrating the successful integration of arts therapies and creative arts in critical healthcare programming; and

WHEREAS, military treatment facilities in various parts of the country are currently employing the creative arts in therapy and treatment programs for recovering military veterans; and

WHEREAS, research outcomes for creative arts therapies programs include improved quality and effectiveness of care, enhanced psychosocial and physical health, decreased agitation, increased response to rehabilitation treatment, and improved caregiver coping skills; and

WHEREAS, increasing public and private sector funding for program development, implementation and evaluation will aid in the sustainability of programs that have proven effective,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Health Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services and other key federal agencies and their private sector and nonprofit partners to adopt the recommendations included in the Arts & Health in the Military Blue Print for Action funded by the David Rockefeller Fund that addresses the inclusion of arts in wellness and building resilience; the concept of person-centered care, that one size does not fit all; timeline variations for wounded service members; and healing as a lifelong process that includes community reintegration and transition into employment and/or educational opportunities, aging, and end of life; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors urges Congress to designate funding to Department of Defense, TRICARE, and Veterans Affairs for Demonstration Projects for veterans and active military, increasing access to cost-effective creative arts services in healthcare treatment and programming for all military service men and women, veterans, their families and caregivers, in communities across the country.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit implements a long-standing and successful national policy of preserving our historic resources, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is a proven job creating, community revitalizing investment in cities throughout the nation, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is the most significant federal financial commitment to historic preservation, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is a government program that more than pays for itself, with the cumulative \$20.5 billion cost of federal historic tax credits having generated \$25.9 billion in federal taxes from the projects facilitated by the credits, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit has catalyzed the rehabilitation of 38,700 buildings, created 2.35 million jobs, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is responsible for generating over \$106 billion in new investment in historic rehabilitation in communities throughout the nation, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit helps to define our national identity and heritage while promoting economic development and revitalizing local communities, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit is a successful market-based approach to revitalizing communities through the reuse of historic resources, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit promotes sustainable building practices by recycling old buildings, which reduces landfill waste and saves energy by reusing existing materials rather than manufacturing new building components, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Historic Tax Credit stimulates the local economy with over three-quarters of the economic benefits generated by rehabilitation remaining in the local communities and states where the projects are located, and

WHEREAS, proposed enhancements to the Federal Historic Tax Credit would: support smaller “Main Street” projects; eliminate federal taxation of State historic tax credits; encourage energy efficiency; facilitate nonprofit sponsorship of historic tax credit projects; and restore the initial Congressional intent to make buildings that are 50 years old, rather than only those built prior to 1936, eligible for the 10 percent rehabilitation credit,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the goals of the Federal Historic Tax Credit because of the well documented economic and job benefits to the nation's cities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the United States Conference of Mayors specifically supports the continued use and enhancement of the Federal Historic Tax Credit and its continued operation in the U.S. tax code.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)
AND THE URBAN PARK AND RECREATION RECOVERY (UPARR)
PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Interior Department's Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides matching grants to States and local governments for the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities, with the purpose of creating and maintaining a nationwide legacy of high-quality recreation areas and facilities and to stimulate non-federal investments in the protection and maintenance of recreation resources across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery (UPARR) program was established in November 1978, with substantial participation from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, to provide matching grants and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities in order to rehabilitate critically needed recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, LWCF state assistance grants have provided over \$3 billion in federal funds which have leveraged more than \$7 billion on nonfederal matching funds to underwrite the development of more than 41,000 state and local park and recreation projects throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, the UPARR program has assisted more than 1,500 sites and facilities in over 300 localities since its inception; and

WHEREAS, enacted appropriations for LWCF have been unpredictable and the average annual appropriation since FY1987 has been about \$40 million, while the UPARR program has received no federal funding since 2002; and

WHEREAS, under the America's Great Outdoors initiative for FY14, the Interior Department has proposed establishing dedicated mandatory funding for LWCF programs, with full funding at \$900 million in 2015, and \$600 million for LWCF programs in 2014, along with \$10 million for a revitalized and refocused UPARR grant program,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports fully funded LWCF and UPARR grant programs to ensure that states and local governments will continue to expand and upgrade their recreational infrastructure.

Projected Cost: \$600 million for LWCF in FY14, \$10 million for UPARR in FY14.

IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL PARKS

WHEREAS, National Parks are the touchstones of our shared history and culture, conveying majestic landscapes that embody the American spirit; and

WHEREAS, National Parks span geographic region, ethnic background, age, economic circumstance, and political persuasion; and

WHEREAS, National Parks serve as anchors to greater urban park systems, and contribute to the physical and aesthetic quality of urban neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, National Parks are valuable contributors to job opportunities, youth development, public health, and community building; and

WHEREAS, National Parks are economic engines critical to supporting residential, commercial, and community development activities in cities across America; and

WHEREAS, National Parks provide affordable, safe, and inspiring places for people to play, exercise, and relax; and

WHEREAS, every dollar invested in National Park operations generates \$10 for local economies and every two Parks Service jobs yield one job outside the park; and

WHEREAS, National Parks draw international tourists to our cities, and 8 of the top 25 tourist destinations in America are national park units; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service budget has been cut by 22% over the last three years and parks could see ongoing cuts for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, 92 percent of voters think that federal spending on National Parks should be increased or be kept the same; and

WHEREAS, the nation will mark the 100th anniversary of the creation of the modern National Park System in 2016; and

WHEREAS, since 1916, our park system has grown to include not only the most splendid examples of America's unsurpassed natural and scenic heritage, but also the special places, artifacts, and stories of our nation's birth, our struggles and triumphs as a people, and the shared values that unite us; and

WHEREAS, National Parks are one of the few things on which overwhelming majorities of the American people agree,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts to connect new and diverse constituents to national parks and protect the land and resources that surround national parks, and affirms its support for preserving the economic stability of our communities by protecting National Park budgets from further cuts.

Projected Cost: Federal funding to be determined by the Fiscal Year 2014 budget process.

INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY AND JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

WHEREAS, jazz is an original American art form that affirms the noblest aspirations of our national character, individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation; and

WHEREAS, Jazz has produced some of America's leading creative artists and ranks as one of America's greatest exports to the world; and

WHEREAS, jazz has inspired dancers, choreographers, poets, novelists, filmmakers, classical composers, and musicians in many other kinds of music; and

WHEREAS, we honor and recognize the outstanding work that all jazz artists, educators, and enthusiasts present; and

WHEREAS, jazz has spoken eloquently of freedom for people in the United States and abroad, and has become an international language that bridges differences and brings people of all races, ages, and backgrounds together; and

WHEREAS, on April 30, 2014 cities will celebrate International Jazz Day and mayors are encouraged to plan jazz related activities and programming; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors members participated in Jazz Day and Jazz Appreciation Month for the past six years; and

WHEREAS, the month of April 2014 has been designated as Jazz Appreciation Month,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local jazz society and other members of the arts and music community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, International Jazz Day April 30, 2014 and to celebrate the month of April as Jazz Appreciation Month.

Projected Cost: Unknown

NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the arts and humanities affect every aspect of life in America today including the economy, social problem solving, job creation, education, creativity, and community livability; and

WHEREAS, cities and states – through their local and state arts agencies and representing thousands of cultural organizations –have celebrated the value and importance of culture in the lives of Americans and the health of thriving communities during National Arts and Humanities Month for several years; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors has actively participated in National Arts and Humanities Month since 1984; and

WHEREAS, the United States Conference of Mayors' national arts partner, Americans for the Arts, will again coordinate this year a national awareness campaign of activities for National Arts and Humanities Month; and

WHEREAS, the nation's 95,000 nonprofit arts organizations, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the nation's 5,000 local arts agencies, the arts and humanities councils of the 50 states and the six U.S. jurisdictions, and the President of the United States have participated in the past and will be asked to participate again this year in this national celebration; and

WHEREAS, the month of October 2013 has been designated as National Arts and Humanities Month,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors urges mayors to build partnerships with their local arts agencies and other members of the arts and humanities community in their cities to proclaim, to participate in, and to celebrate the month of October as National Arts and Humanities Month.

ARTS FUNDING

WHEREAS, the arts, humanities and museums are critical to the quality of life and livability of America's cities; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), and the Office of Museum Services (OMS) within the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) are the primary federal agencies that provide federal funding for the arts, humanities and museum programs, activities, and efforts in the cities and states of America; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's and the NEH's 48 years of promoting cultural heritage and vitality throughout the nation has built a cultural infrastructure in this nation of arts and humanities agencies in every state, more than 95,000 nonprofit arts organizations, and 5,000 local arts agencies in cities throughout the country; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding leverages up to four times more in matching funds from state and local governments, private foundations, corporations and individuals in communities across the nation to support the highest quality cultural programs in the nation; and

WHEREAS, federal arts funding to cities, towns and states has helped stimulate the growth of local arts agencies in America's cities and counties with \$727 million annually in local government funding, \$279 million in state government funding to the arts, \$138.4 million each for the NEA and NEH and \$13.1 billion in private giving to the arts; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities stimulates local economies and improves the quality of civic life throughout the country — the NEA, NEH and IMLS support programs, such as the Mayors' Institute on City Design (MICD) that enhance community development, promote cultural planning, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract new businesses, draw significant cultural tourism dollars, and improve the overall quality of life in our cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for cultural activities is essential to promote full access to and participation in exhibits, performances, arts education and other cultural events regardless of family income; and

WHEREAS, the NEA's "Our Town" initiative invests \$5 million in grants to 80 communities in 44 states to support planning and design projects, and arts engagement strategies; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013 National Arts Index, conducted by Americans for the Arts, a measure of the health and vitality of the arts in the United States, composed of 77 equal-weighted, national-level indicators of arts and culture

activity that covers the 14-year period from 1998 to 2011, found that while the Index decreased 1.1 percent in 2011, from 97.4 to 96.3, federal funding for the arts remains crucial given the 6.5 point overall decline from 102.8 in 2007; and

WHEREAS, federal, state and local financial support for the arts has fallen over the last decade, additional NEA funding to support a competitive local re-granting program should be re-established to provide incentives for local governments to invest in targeted ways in the arts by infusing \$5-10 million in new dedicated federal funding to local arts agencies, which would be matched to spur new local investment; and

WHEREAS, the NEA plays a very important role in developing partnerships with other federal agencies such as HUD, Education and Transportation, in order to open new channels for arts organizations to work with all aspects of government,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors reaffirms its support of the National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and the Office of Museum Services within the Institute of Museum and Library Services and calls upon Congress to support a level closer to the President's budget request to fund these agencies in the FY 2014 appropriations bills at \$154 million each for the NEA and NEH, and \$38.6 million for museums within the IMLS to serve arts organizations of all sizes in communities across the country; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the federal government to invest in nonprofit arts organizations through local arts agencies as a catalyst to generate economic impact, create jobs, stimulate business development, spur urban renewal, attract tourists and area residents to community activities, and to improve the overall quality of life in America's cities.

Projected Cost: Unknown

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

IN SUPPORT OF THE NOMINATION OF MAYOR ANTHONY FOXX AS SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

WHEREAS, President Obama has nominated to Mayor Anthony Foxx of Charlotte, North Carolina to succeed the Honorable Ray LaHood as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT); and

WHEREAS, Mayor Foxx's experience as the mayor of a great U.S. city has provided him with valuable perspective and has facilitated a greater understanding of the role our nation's transportation systems and infrastructure play in the well-being of our local economies; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Foxx's nomination follows in the great tradition of mayors serving at the helm of the Department of Transportation: Secretary Neil Goldschmidt, former mayor of Portland, OR; Secretary Federico Peña, former mayor of Denver, CO; and Secretary Norman Mineta, former mayor of San Jose, CA; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Foxx understands that investments in transportation and infrastructure projects create jobs, generate economic recovery, and supplement community and economic development efforts in U.S. cities; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Foxx's unmatched qualifications include his oversight of the city-managed Charlotte Douglas International Airport and public transportation projects such as the expansion of light rail lines and streetcars; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Foxx will continue to reach across the aisle and advocate for federal support and investments in transportation and infrastructure projects,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors congratulates Mayor Anthony Foxx on his nomination to President Obama's Cabinet as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors urges the expeditious confirmation of Mayor Foxx as DOT Secretary by the U.S. Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors looks forward to working with Secretary Foxx and working toward more progress in transportation.

Projected Cost: None

IN APPRECIATION OF THE HONORABLE RAY LAHOOD

WHEREAS, the Honorable Ray LaHood has completed more than four years of public service as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, Secretary LaHood oversaw an annual budget of \$70 billion and managed a staff of 55,000 federal employees tasked with oversight of the nation's roads, railways and air travel; and

WHEREAS, Secretary LaHood has administered \$48 billion in federal investments authorized by the American Recovery and Reinstatement Act as well as five competitive rounds of application solicitations for the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program that has awarded more than \$3.1 billion to fund 186 projects nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Secretary LaHood has been a continuous advocate for light rail and streetcar projects that have transformed and improved the quality of life in metropolitan areas nationwide; and

WHEREAS, Secretary LaHood's commitment to safety was evidenced by his Distracted Driving Initiative and the securing of funds in the *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21) to help build and repair roads, bridges and transit systems; and

WHEREAS, Secretary LaHood has logged tens of thousands of frequent flier miles in his quest to visit all fifty states, as well as more than 211 U.S. cities, a tenacious feat that showcased his great resolve and commitment to the American people; and

WHEREAS, Secretary LaHood's unprecedented, close working relationship with Mayors demonstrated that he understood that mayoral leadership is critical for transportation progress,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors congratulates and sincerely thanks Secretary Ray LaHood for his public service.

Projected Cost: None

IN SUPPORT OF A STRONG AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, a healthy American economy relies on an expansive and well-maintained infrastructure to transport people, products, materials, water, energy, and a variety of other goods; and

WHEREAS, cities, regions, and metropolitan planning organizations are particularly affected by the strength of America's infrastructure, as businesses and citizens need a system that works to move products and for travel; and

WHEREAS, investments in smart growth infrastructure are critical to helping communities become more vibrant, sustainable, and competitive in the 21st century economy; and

WHEREAS, for state and local governments, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the most important tool available for financing critical infrastructure projects such as primary and secondary schools, hospitals, water and sewer systems, roads, highways and streets, public power facilities, and mass transit projects; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, the American Society of Civil Engineers assigned America's infrastructure a grade of D+ overall, and estimated an investment of \$3.6 trillion that would be needed to bring U.S. infrastructure up to an acceptable level; and

WHEREAS, the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009* provided \$48 billion to more than 15,000 infrastructure projects across the country; and

WHEREAS, the *MAP-21* transportation reauthorization provided a total of \$109 billion for FY13 and FY14 to fund surface transportation programs, covering highways, safety, and transit; and

WHEREAS, the President's FY14 budget proposal includes a number of provisions that would improve American infrastructure, including: a \$50 billion "fix-it-first" policy for high-priority projects, leveraging private investment through a "Rebuild America Partnership," streamlining federal agency review of projects, using \$10 billion to create a National Infrastructure Bank, and expanding the highly popular TIGER and TIFIA programs,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports efforts by Congress, the Administration, and State governments to upgrade, expand, and strengthen American infrastructure by making the appropriate financial investments and by partnering and coordinating with local governments and stakeholders.

Projected Cost: Federal funding to be determined by authorizing legislation and Fiscal Year 2014 appropriations.

**RESOLUTION FOR THE U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
“AMERICA FAST FORWARD TRANSPORTATION BONDS”**

WHEREAS, investments in transportation infrastructure generate more than \$244 billion in total annual U.S. economic activity and confer significant benefits to cities, including: building the infrastructure necessary to support economic growth and goods movement and creating high quality jobs designing, building, operating, and maintaining the infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Trust Fund has insufficient resources to maintain the current level of federal spending on surface transportation, much less help fund major new investment initiatives; and

WHEREAS, the fiscal and budget realities confronting both the Administration and Congress require a new federal financing tools for transportation that entails smart, targeted, and innovative financing mechanisms that minimize impacts on the federal budget and maximize new job creation; and

WHEREAS, MAP-21 included an innovative finance title (America Fast Forward) to reform the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) and increase its authorization to nearly \$2 billion so that cities can leverage federal funds and attract substantial private and other non-federal co-investment; and

WHEREAS, local and state governments should be provided with additional incentives for innovative financing for infrastructure projects at a time when early construction of these projects can be done at the lowest possible cost and have the most profound and enduring impact on creating sustainable jobs; and

WHEREAS, Federal tax incentives can be a highly effective tool for encouraging private sector investment and, unlike direct federal spending, do not require growing the size of the federal government to administer them; and

WHEREAS, Congress has created over \$35 billion of qualified tax credit bonds with bipartisan support for a variety of sectors including: school construction, renewable energy, as well as forestry and energy conservation; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds would support the creation of a 21st century national surface transportation system by creating a new category of qualified tax credit bonds to stimulate investment in highways, transit, bridges, freight, and intermodal facilities; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds would be a \$45 billion program over 10 years where the federal government pay all or most of the annual “interest” due on the bonds in the form of an annual non-refundable tax credit against the investor’s federal tax liability; and

WHEREAS, the list of taxes that the credit could be offset against would be expanded to include federal withholding tax on wages and benefits retained by employers and pension plan administrators; and

WHEREAS, 35 percent of the volume would be allocated to all states based on their proportion of the nation’s population, and 65 percent would be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation among projects; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward Transportation Bonds should enable a project sponsor to undertake substantially greater investments within a defined revenue stream for debt service payments than other borrowing approaches, such as traditional tax-exempt bonds; and

WHEREAS, America Fast Forward bonds would generate at least 500,000 private sector jobs nationwide,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress to create a new category of qualified tax credit bonds for transportation to encourage infrastructure investment without relying on increased federal spending through grants, which would include:

- \$45 billion program over 10 years; and
- Federal government pays all or most of the annual “interest” due on the bonds in the form of an annual non-refundable tax credit against the investor’s federal tax liability; and
- List of taxes that the credit could be offset against would be expanded to include federal withholding tax on wages and benefits retained by employers and pension plan administrators; and
- 35 percent of the volume would be allocated to all states based on their proportion of the nation’s population, and 65 percent would be allocated at the discretion of the Secretary of Transportation among projects; and
- Eligible projects would include: highways, bridges and tunnels; transit and intercity passenger bus or rail; and intermodal freight transfer facilities and private freight facilities conferring a public benefit.

Projected Cost: Approximately \$7.5B

IN SUPPORT OF TIGER GRANTS

WHEREAS, since 2009, the Department of Transportation (DOT)'s Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) competitive grant program has invested over \$3.1 billion in road, rail, transit, and port projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, and/or a region; and

WHEREAS, TIGER grants are a very significant tool for local governments and other entities to fill the last funding gaps in important infrastructure projects; and

WHEREAS, the four previous rounds of TIGER have supported 218 projects in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, over the four previous rounds, more than 4,050 applicants requested more than \$105.2 billion worth of projects, showing that demand for federal assistance far surpasses the available funding; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 TIGER grants awarded over the previous rounds were directly awarded to city or county governments that were otherwise unable to directly access traditional sources of Federal funding for their projects,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors thanks the Department of Transportation for overseeing \$474 million worth of TIGER grants to be distributed in the fifth round of funding this year, and urges Congress to support the President's infrastructure initiatives that would provide additional funding to the TIGER program.

Projected Cost: Approximately \$4.5 billion in FY14 between the President's regular budget request of \$500 million and \$4 billion in "Fix-it-First" investments split between TIGER and TIFIA.

A NEW ERA FOR URBAN STREETS AND URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, streets and public rights of ways comprise roughly one-third of any urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, streets are the defining characteristic of urban life and economic exchange; and

WHEREAS, urban infrastructure supports metropolitan economies which generate roughly 90 per cent of U.S. gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, increased employment density correlates with increased economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, over two-thirds of Millennials report that walkability is an important or vital community feature, nearly half demand to be near transit; and

WHEREAS, the urban street and network design is the single largest determinant of walkability and transit operational efficiency; and

WHEREAS, thoughtfully well designed streets that accommodate a variety of travel modes and performance landscaping can increase local competitive advantages, decrease energy consumption, storm water runoff, and vulnerability to climactic changes, and reduce operating and maintenance costs; and

WHEREAS, there is renewed interest in urban areas initiating and implementing new policies that encourage broader uses of streets that can safely accommodate pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and automobile users; and

WHEREAS, over 500 complete streets policies have passed in communities large and small to help communities consider choices and options; and

WHEREAS, over 60 urban areas are designing and incorporating urban circulator projects such as streetcar and Bus Rapid Transit in urban corridors once designed only for the automobile to increase both choice and economic productivity,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors calls for a new era of urban street design that promotes dense economic activity, choices in transportation options, and enhanced environmental performance.

Projected Cost: Unknown

TRANSIT-ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT AS AN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

WHEREAS, transit has the potential to reenergize regions and communities by increasing property values and tax revenue, increasing access to jobs, and strengthening the economic outlook; and

WHEREAS, transit stations are central to placemaking efforts, enhancing the built environment that creates community, stimulating interaction, and promoting significant economic development, commonly known as transit-oriented development; and

WHEREAS, transit-oriented development brings numerous benefits, such as increased and retained property values, reduced cost of living, increased business activity, decreased auto dependence, and reduced traffic congestion; and

WHEREAS, transit-oriented development that provides residential opportunities to members of all socio-economic strata, coupled with increased commercial and business development along a transit corridor provides value capture opportunities, including increased transit ridership which allows transit agencies to recover more costs from the farebox, and lease revenues from joint development; and

WHEREAS, given the economic potential of transit-oriented development, it is in the interest of States and local communities to promote transit-oriented development,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the promotion of transit-oriented development, including additional federal tax and other financial incentives, to bolster market values and boost transit ridership, leading to increased economic vibrancy and sustainable growth within cities and regions across the nation.

OPPOSING TRUCK SIZE OR WEIGHT INCREASES

WHEREAS, the U.S. Conference of Mayors is concerned with the welfare of motorists and the cost, quality and reliability of our nation's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, on average 4,000 people are killed in truck crashes each year in the United States and 100,000 more are injured; and

WHEREAS, large trucks have a fatal crash involvement rate 40 percent higher than that of passenger vehicles, according to the National Highway Safety Administration; and

WHEREAS, every crash imposes both human and economic costs as well as a significant clean-up burden that can require many hours and impede other traffic; and

WHEREAS, the estimated costs to society for each fatality is \$7.24 million and the cost for each injury crash is \$321,000 per injury; and

WHEREAS, allowing heavier or longer trucks would threaten the safety of other motorists as well as law enforcement officers because heavier and longer trucks would be more difficult to control, take longer to stop, and increase crash severity; and

WHEREAS, nearly 20 per cent of commercial vehicles inspected are taken out of service for mechanical problems, which are most commonly brake issues, and trucks with out-of-service braking conditions are 1.8 times more likely to be assigned crash responsibility; and

WHEREAS, government studies have raised questions about the safety of equipment modified to haul heavier loads; and

WHEREAS, the trucking industry is an important part of the nation's economy and safely sized and weighted trucks are a needed tool to enable truck drivers to conduct their essential work in a safe and responsible manner; and

WHEREAS, more than half the bridges on the National Highway System are more than 40 years old and nearly 25 percent are rated as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete; and

WHEREAS, trucks heavier than 80,000 pounds also raise concerns related to the nation's deteriorating infrastructure because they are likely to accelerate the deterioration of road surfaces and bridges; and

WHEREAS, government highway cost allocation studies have shown that the damage done to our roads and bridges by heavy trucks in legal operation today is not covered by their payments; and

WHEREAS, the federal government, municipalities and counties effectively subsidize the operation of heavy trucks in legal operation today; and

WHEREAS, government highway cost allocation studies show that increases in truck size and weight would exacerbate the existing underpayment of heavy trucks and increase their subsidization by municipalities and counties, amounting to an unfunded mandate,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors opposes any increase in truck size or weight by Congress.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**IN SUPPORT OF RELIEF FROM RAILROAD CONGESTION IN OUR
NATION'S CITIES**

WHEREAS, long cargo and passenger trains frequently block crossings within urban areas, sometimes in excess of 20 minutes; and

WHEREAS, many states and municipalities have ordinances which limit the amount of time a crossing has been blocked, but those laws are preempted by Federal law; and

WHEREAS, when crossings are blocked for an excessive amount of time, commerce is impacted as people are unable to get to work on time, deliveries are delayed, and businesses have to absorb these costs; and

WHEREAS, when crossings are blocked for an excessive amount of time, pedestrians and cyclists may attempt to unsafely cross the train tracks, creating a dangerous situation; and

WHEREAS, when crossings are blocked for an excessive amount of time, the health and safety of the public is affected as emergency services may be unable to get to the scene of an emergency and victims being transported by ambulance are delayed in reaching a hospital; and

WHEREAS, when crossings are blocked for an excessive amount of time, local and regional bus carriers and their customers are impacted when schedules are delayed; and

WHEREAS, when crossings are blocked for an excessive amount of time, fuel is wasteland emissions are increased as vehicles wait at the blocked crossings,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors encourages the U.S. railroad industry to work with local and state governments to implement more common-sense procedures to reduce railroad congestion in urban areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to assist the nation's cities with devising policies that reduce railroad congestion in urban areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to consider passing legislation that would allow states and municipalities time of crossings on streets and arterials.

Projected Cost: Unknown.

IN SUPPORT OF HIGH-SPEED RAIL

WHEREAS, high-speed rail corridors can expand and fundamentally improve passenger transportation in the geographic regions they serve and will further connect communities and economic centers in complement to existing highway, aviation, and public transit systems across the country; and

WHEREAS, high-speed rail will spur economic development along corridors, connect markets, and create tens-of-thousands of shovel-ready jobs, new manufacturing positions, and other permanent positions throughout the country in a time when American workers need such opportunities, especially in regions with chronically high unemployment; and

WHEREAS, high-speed rail will increase traveling options as an alternative to driving or flying and will promote domestic tourism by providing a service that is fast, safe, and reliable; and

WHEREAS, high-speed rail will offer great public benefit as it improves the quality of life, in urban and rural communities alike, by providing rail access to new communities and improving the reliability, speed and frequency of existing lines; and

WHEREAS, President Obama committed \$6.4 billion to improve existing intercity passenger rail services, develop new high-speed rail corridors, and strengthen the economic competitiveness of our freight rail system, as proposed in his FY14 budget; and

WHEREAS, construction is expected to begin this year on the first segment of the California High-Speed Rail system, the Northeast Corridor is expanding its high-speed rail service, and many states continue planning for high-speed rail systems,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The United States Conference of Mayors supports high-speed rail expansion and development and applauds investment in American infrastructure, economic development, and tourism as it advances public well-being and United States global competitiveness.

Projected Cost: Federal funding provided by Recovery Act and 2009 appropriations.

IN SUPPORT OF SAFETY AND INTEGRITY IN THE NATION'S AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the nation's air traffic control system is critical to preventing collisions between aircraft in flight and on the ground, organizing and expediting the flow of traffic, and providing information and other support for pilots; and

WHEREAS, the mandatory across-the-board cuts of the federal sequester threatened to furlough thousands of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) employees, shut down 149 smaller private contract towers, and eliminate the midnight shift at 72 publicly operated control towers nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the economic and national security stability of the nation would have been compromised as a result of these impacts; and

WHEREAS, Congress intervened and passed the *Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013*, which allowed the FAA to shift funds to prevent the furloughs and planned control tower closures; and

WHEREAS, on May 8, the FAA announced that it had decided not pursue the elimination of midnight shifts at FAA towers for the remainder of FY13; and

WHEREAS, on May 10, DOT Secretary Ray LaHood announced that the FAA would allow the 149 low activity contract towers originally slated for closure in June to remain open for the remainder of FY13,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors applauds the efforts of Mayors, Congress, the Administration, and other stakeholder groups to prevent these furloughs and tower closures which would have had a truly negative impact on local aviation and jobs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Congress and the Administration to work towards a solution that ensures the long-term viability of our nation's air traffic control system, and eliminates the threat of future closures for hundreds of air traffic control towers across the country.

Projected Cost: Federal funding provided by FY13 appropriations and funding flexibility authorized by the *Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013*.

PRESERVING LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY OVER SATELLITE DISH INSTALLATION LOCATIONS

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”), as directed by Congress in Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, adopted the Over-the-Air Reception Devices (“OTARD”) Rule to prohibit governmental and nongovernmental restrictions on a viewers' ability to receive video programming signals from direct broadcast satellites (“DBS”), broadband radio service providers (formerly multichannel multipoint distribution service or MMDS), and television broadcast stations (“TVBS”); and

WHEREAS, The Satellite Broadcasting & Communications Association (“SBCA”) filed a Petition for Rulemaking seeking to amend the exclusive use provision of the OTARD Rule to empower only property owners or homeowners’ associations to restrict reception devices to areas under user’s exclusive control and bar any such restrictions imposed by state or local governments; and

WHEREAS, SBCA petitioned the FCC on November 22, 2011 to have Philadelphia's satellite dish placement ordinance declared unlawful and made similar claims against Chicago and Boston ordinances in the spring and early summer of 2012; and

WHEREAS, the FCC stayed the enforcement of the Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston ordinances pending their review of each cities’ laws, but today more than eighteen months later the FCC has failed to act on any of these complaints and in fact has not even placed the Chicago and Boston challenges on public notice; and

WHEREAS, the length of the stay of lawful local government action in three of the country’s largest cities, without any legal justification other than the filing of a complaint, is inappropriate, and the effect is inconsistent with the intent and language of the OTARD rule itself,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors calls on the FCC to reject the SBCA’s petition to amend the OTARD Rule and calls on the FCC to act on the pending complaints against Philadelphia, Chicago and Boston; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission should find that the OTARD Rule does not preempt local zoning ordinances that ban the installation of OTARDs on the front façade of a building when an alternative location can be employed that does not delay installation, unreasonably burden the user, nor materially degrade the quality of a signal.

Projected Cost: Unknown

IN SUPPORT OF THE GIGABIT CITY CHALLENGE

WHEREAS, internet connections of one gigabit per second are approximately 100 times faster than the average fixed “high-speed” internet connection, and can handle multiple streams of large-format, high-definition content like online video calls, movies, and immersive educational experiences; and

WHEREAS, cities such as Chattanooga, Tennessee and San Leandro, California have taken the initiative to implement their own local gigabit-speed networks; and

WHEREAS cities such as Kansas City, Missouri and Kansas, Austin, Texas, and Provo, Utah have taken advantage of the opportunity to partner with the private sector to implement local gigabit-speed networks; and

WHEREAS, gigabit communities spur innovators to create new businesses and industries, spark connectivity among citizens and services, incentivize investment in high-tech industries, and create jobs; and

WHEREAS, at this year’s U.S. Conference of Mayors Winter Meeting, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Julius Genachowski announced the “Gigabit City Challenge,” calling for at least one gigabit community in all 50 states by 2015 in order to accelerate the creation of a critical mass of markets and innovation hubs with ultra-fast Internet speeds; and

WHEREAS, Chairman Genachowski announced plans to create a new online clearinghouse of best practices to collect and disseminate information about how to lower the costs and increase the speed of broadband deployment nationwide, including to create gigabit communities; and

WHEREAS, on May 1, President Obama nominated Tom Wheeler to succeed Chairman Julius Genachowski as the next Chairman of the FCC,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the FCC’s Gigabit City Challenge, and will continue to collaborate with the FCC, which will be holding workshops on gigabit communities, and supports the development of an online clearinghouse of best practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that The U.S. Conference of Mayors urges Chairman-Designate Wheeler, when confirmed, to continue the Gigabit City Challenge and also to develop new initiatives that involve collaboration with Mayors and local governments.

Projected Cost: Costs to be determined by individual city and agency activities.

SUPPORT INCREASED ACCESS TO BROADBAND AND SPECTRUM

WHEREAS, mayors believe that robust, ubiquitous, affordable, and open broadband Internet access is essential to encourage innovation, drive economic growth, and remain competitive in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, the US continues to face challenges on broadband adoption and affordability; and

WHEREAS, a substantial number of individuals in poor and rural communities have limited Internet access and in those communities where broadband access is limited, our citizens have limited access to information, education, and the tools for economic independence; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships have been created to encourage the expansion of broadband infrastructure and increase access to gigabit-speed broadband in some cities; while in other communities, local government has chosen to provide affordable broadband access; and

WHEREAS, speeds of one gigabit per second are approximately 100 times faster than the average fixed high-speed Internet connection, creating the capacity to handle multiple streams of large-format, high-definition content to support real-time public safety systems, innovative public transportation solutions, smart energy grids, medical image sharing and telemedicine, and immersive educational experiences; and

WHEREAS, an increasing necessity on Internet connectivity requires that we maintain affordable prices for broadband access; and

WHEREAS, wireless usage has increased dramatically, placing greater demand on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and adding additional capacity is essential to support continued wireless innovation and introduce new wireless technologies; and

WHEREAS, estimates place the value created by current applications of unlicensed spectrum at up to \$37 billion dollars a year in the United States,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports the Federal Communications Commission's Gigabit Cities Challenge and move to allocate additional spectrum for unlicensed use in order to meet increased demand for wireless technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors calls on mayors to utilize the new Commission resources and create plans to establish more gigabit test bed communities around the country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors encourages further availability of Internet for low-income households through the support of low-cost plans, including access provided by local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the critically important E-rate program be strengthened and modernized in an effort to ensure schools and libraries have access to the best possible broadband technologies available from either the public or private sector; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Conference of Mayors supports best practices that result in increased access to affordable broadband services such as: publishing data on existing above and below ground infrastructure (such as poles, conduit, and mounting assets) that do not need to be protected, or the revealing of which will not jeopardize public safety, continuing to make rights of way and utility poles available on nondiscriminatory terms, installing fiber conduit and providing space on poles for new attachers consistent with local zoning; and

Projected Cost: Unknown

THE NEED TO PRESERVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CONSUMERS RIGHTS IN THE BROADBAND ERA

WHEREAS, mayors support the universal availability of affordable wire line and wireless broadband services; and

WHEREAS, mayors, as the CEOs of local governments, which are themselves significant and sophisticated users of broadband communications technology and eagerly await choice of broadband providers, faster speeds and lower prices; and

WHEREAS, mayors recognize the increasingly vital role broadband wire line and wireless services plays in both homeland and hometown security, including economic security; and

WHEREAS, The United States Conference of Mayors' broadband communications advocacy efforts with Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and the Administration since 2010 has been to call upon the Federal government to:

- Recognize and respect the inherent police powers of local governments, including the right to manage and charge for the use of the public right-of-way; and
- Require that new technologies bear the same social obligations as the services they seek to replace such as supporting E-911 services, consumer privacy, universal service, PEG programming; and
- Appreciate the neighborhood-by-neighborhood expertise local government brings to overseeing the social obligations, including public safety, broadband deployment, and preventing economic redlining; and
- Homeland and hometown security require the dedication of interference free dedicated interoperable spectrum for first responders; and
- Federal policy must continue to distinguish a tax from a fee for benefit rendered, such as use of the rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, there are continuing challenges being made to local governments' real estate, zoning and taxing authority in communications policy at the federal and state level,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that mayors believe the following actions will serve to protect consumers, local businesses and local governments; and

- **Protect Main Street Merchants and Local Tax Revenues in Internet Age**: Current tax laws favor on-line or remote commercial transactions as

opposed to local purchases. Therefore, The United States Conference of Mayors calls on Congress to adopt legislation such as the Marketplace Fairness Act (S. 336, H.R. 684), so that states might harmonize the tax treatment of transactions conducted on Main Street versus the Internet. The legislative proposal, which requires all sales and use taxes to be collected according to the destination rate, nevertheless protects remote vendors by exempting sellers with less than \$1 million in gross remote sales, and bans additional registration, licensing or regulatory requirements; and

- **Oppose Efforts to Expand or Make Permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act:** Expansion or making permanent the Internet Tax Freedom Act would severely limit the ability of local governments to require Internet Access providers from bearing their fair share on social obligations and could jeopardize the relief the Marketplace Fairness Act offers. The law is set to expire in November of 2014. Legislation (S. 31/HR 434) has been introduced to make the ban permanent. Congress should allow the ban to sunset, but in no case expand or make permanent the ban. The Internet no longer needs such a safe harbor status; and
- **Protection of Police Powers; Rights-of-Way and the Right of a Fair Return for Use Even By Broadband Users:** Mayors call on Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to reject legislative and regulatory initiatives to preempt, or otherwise limit, local governments' ability to manage their rights-of-way, including the ability to demand a fair rental payment for the use of same. Fairness and the financial health of local governments across the country demand that local governments retain authority to manage and obtain compensation for the use of their rights-of-way. Included in this compensable use should be broadband services which are not currently paying their fair share of the rent due for use of the community's assets; and
- **Extend or Clarify Consumer Protection to Broadband Services:** Mayors call on Congress and the Federal Communications Commission to ensure that consumer protections such as privacy rights and rate protection in the absence of real competition are afforded broadband consumers. The regulatory finding that broadband services are interstate information services has led to claims that broadband consumers are not protected under current consumer protections for non information services, nor state and local level consumer protection standards. While Mayors do not accept that claim as there are independent bases to provide consumer protections, such ambiguities should be eliminated by Congress and the FCC by affirmatively extending such protections to broadband users; and
- **Update Effective Competition Standards:** Current effective competition standards are not providing consumers protection against excessive cable rates. Mayors call on Congress to amend the standard to provide meaningful protection. The General Accounting Office has documented that the only

effective competitor to a cable operator is another wireline competitor. Congress should confine its definition of what constitutes effective competition to the presence of a 2nd wireline provider that is available to a large majority of consumers in a community; and

- **Oppose Preferential Tax Treatment for Specific Industry**: Mayors continue to be concerned about efforts at the federal level that would provide preferential treatment to any industry seeking to create its own special immunity from state and local taxation. Mayors calls upon legislators at the federal and state level to reject legislative initiatives to preempt state and local taxing authority on wireless service providers and their property. Adoption of such special-interest legislation would be a disservice to the taxpayers and citizens of the nation by undercutting a community's ability to bring fairness and equity to our existing tax system; and
- **Create/Preserve PEG Jobs by Freeing Up Support**: Mayors call on the Congress to enact legislation to eliminate the unnecessary limits on PEG fund uses so as to create or preserve local jobs rather than limit use to capital costs; and
- **Preserve Local Zoning Over Cell Towers**: Mayors call on Congress to clarify that zoning decisions over cell tower sitings are a power reserved to local government, not the FCC.

Projected Cost: Unknown

**A NEW ERA FOR PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS
TRANSFORMING SMART CITY TECHNOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY
INFRASTRUCTURE**

WHEREAS, financial restrictions have forced many municipalities to focus on providing basic core services, limiting investments in technology and sustainability upgrades; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of technology nevertheless is happening at the breakneck speed changing the landscape of cities much like electricity changed the physical landscape of cities around the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the speed of integration of new technologies is rapid for individuals and businesses but comparatively much slower for municipalities; and

WHEREAS, attracting private investment into public infrastructure is essential for job creation, economic development, and America's long-term competitiveness; and

WHEREAS, innovation is key to being competitive in the global marketplace which is why cities must embrace new and innovative ideas and technology solutions; and

WHEREAS, smart city public-private partnerships can identify, finance, and executive capital projects that will implement a range of smart city solutions such as networked LED smart lighting, digital way-finding kiosks, public wifi hot spots and empower cities to create new revenues while expanding quality of life for citizens; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors supports the development of transparent public-private partnerships to develop smart city infrastructure with accountability, revenue sharing, and social and environmental benefits inuring to the cities they serve.

Projected Cost: Unknown

MISCELLANEOUS

HONORING THOMAS M. MENINO – MAYOR OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Boston’s longest serving Mayor, Thomas M. Menino, has decided not to run for re-election; and

WHEREAS, in granting an honorary degree from Harvard this month, President Drew Faust lauded Mayor Menino’s transition from “urban mechanic to urban legend;” and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino has served as President of The United States Conference of Mayors, advancing the issues of housing, education and youth development nationally and ultimately advancing the causes of America’s cities and people; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino has been the founding Chair of two USCM Task Forces – one on Education and the other on Food Policy, thereby keeping Mayors in the forefront of both priority and emerging issues; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino has stood strong in the face of youth violence and gun violence, creating the Mayors Against Illegal Guns with Mayor Michael Bloomberg – in an effort to stop the plague of gun violence in our cities and our neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino has generously and enthusiastically shared Boston’s ideas with his colleagues – helping to replicate the Office of New Urban Mechanics in Philadelphia, the Office of Neighborhood Services in Providence, and the Citizens Connect program in many Massachusetts cities and towns; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino recognized that being Mayor is the “best job in America” and that if you aren’t helping people, you aren’t doing your job; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino gets his energy and vitality from the neighborhoods, believes that politics must be inclusive, and has a tangible connection to the people of Boston, having met over half of the City’s residents; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino brought clarity to so many issues – the important role of Mayors in education whether or not you control your schools; the value of public housing and giving people “a front door, a back door, and a little piece of grass”, the importance of closing the gap regarding racial and ethnic health disparities, the value of community policing and making residents feel safe; and

WHEREAS, as the “Urban Mechanic,” Mayor Menino has focused on the importance of providing core traditional services and the way in which they are delivered; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino rallied the people of Boston and beyond in the aftermath of the Boston Marathon attacks, checking himself out of the hospital to be on the front lines, supporting the victims, first responders, local businesses and residents and establishing the One Fund for victims, which has raised over \$50 million; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino is leaving a legacy focused on people not buildings, bringing opportunities to those without and a reminder of what is important by virtue of his values – equality, empathy and most of all honesty; and

WHEREAS, under Mayor Menino’s leadership, Boston is booming in every way economically with its world class focus on innovation and biotechnology; environmentally through efforts around energy and environmental sustainability; in the neighborhoods with its strong business districts and expanded parks; through efforts focused on early childhood education and education reform; and through its partnerships with its business community resulting in 10,000 summer jobs for young people this year; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Menino would like to be known as just a kid from Hyde Park who did his job but rather he will be known for his small actions that altogether made a big imprint in Boston and across the nation,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that The United States Conference of Mayors thanks Mayor Tom Menino for his service to America’s cities and The United States Conference of Mayors and for his partnership with his fellow Mayors and recognizes his successful tenure as Mayor and the leadership he has provided to the people of Boston; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors wishes Angela Menino and the Menino Family including the six Menino grandchildren well in the days ahead; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that The United States Conference of Mayors wishes Mayor Menino all the best as he begins a new phase of “helping people” on January 6, 2014.

Special Resolution in Honor of
THE HONORABLE MICHAEL A. NUTTER
MAYOR OF PHILADELPHIA
PRESIDENT,
THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
June 2012-June 2013

WHEREAS, Mayor Michael A. Nutter has led The United States Conference of Mayors as President from June 2012-June 2013 with strength and purposeful advocacy, both to strengthen cities and metro areas in general, and to give strong support to mayors and cities in the face of such grave challenges as sequestration, the Sandy Hook shootings, devastation of much of the northeast coastline by Hurricane Sandy, and domestic terrorism in the bombing at the Boston Marathon; and

WHEREAS, as President, he has focused upon the need for protection of the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds, immigration reform, climate protection, the Marketplace Fairness Act, adequate infrastructure financing for cities, reduction of gun violence and the high incidence of violent deaths among Black men and boys, and support for clean energy and jobs; and

WHEREAS, among his many considerable abilities, the mayor has the gift of being able to distill complex issues into clear and forceful language, and the ability to speak eloquently and forcefully. For example,

- Tax-exempt municipal bonds: “We are building a strong coalition to protect tax-exempt municipal bonds. We fight every day, and we will continue to fight that fight every day!”
- To the victims of Hurricane Sandy: "We stood with you then, we stand with you now, and we will stand with you until you get the resources you need.”
- Infrastructure: "We will not stop pressing for infrastructure financing for our cities and local areas."
- Community Development Block Grants: “We will continue to work tirelessly for this critically-important program.”
- Power of mayors and their strong sense of community: "We can, we do, and we will continue to make a difference!"

WHEREAS, as President, Mayor Nutter has urged mayors to work together in a bipartisan manner in order to continue to strengthen cities and metro areas and in order to Build a Better America;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the U.S. Conference of Mayors extends warmest thanks to Mayor Nutter for his forceful advocacy for mayors and cities, his leadership in times of great challenge, and for his success during his Presidency in strengthening the sense of community among America's mayors.

*U.S. Conference of Mayors Special Resolution
in Honor of*

**THE HONORABLE CAROLYN GOODMAN
MAYOR OF LAS VEGAS
HOST of
THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
81TH ANNUAL MEETING**

WHEREAS, Mayor Carolyn Goodman has brilliantly hosted the 81th Annual Conference of Mayors, June 21-24, 2013, in this amazing City of Las Vegas and has given mayors and their families, city staff, and all other participants the opportunity to learn about its history, entertainment, culture, medical and research facilities, and overall innovation strategies; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Goodman, her outstanding staff, and everyone we have met welcomed all Conference participants with kindness and consummate competence; and

WHEREAS, our evening events introduced us to many different facets of Las Vegas:

- The beautiful Mandalay Bay Beach oasis, where we relaxed with good libations, food, and entertainment on our first evening here as the sun went down and the stars came out; and
- The place where all the glitz and glamour began – Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas; and
- Cirque du Soleil and the Michael Jackson "One," which wowed us with this theatrical evocation guided and inspired by Michael's music; and

WHEREAS, because this 81st Conference of Mayors Annual Meeting was memorable, educational, and productive in every way,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayors of the United States extend warmest thanks to the great Mayor Carolyn Goodman for her generous hospitality, wonderful planning, and the opportunity to learn more about and enjoy this great metropolitan city of Las Vegas.