WHEREAS, the U.S. electric grid delivers a product essential to all Americans; and

WHEREAS, electricity runs our economy—it powers our homes, businesses, industries, and the smart technologies and innovations that enhance our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the United States needs a diverse supply of safe and reliable electricity; and

WHEREAS, the electric power industry is leading the transformation to make the grid more flexible and more resilient to meet the growing demands of our digital society; and

WHEREAS, the domestic development of alternative energy sources should be concurrently beneficial to our country’s environment and to our country’s economy; and

WHEREAS, the electric power industry directly employs more than 500,000 American workers and is the nation’s most capital-intensive industry, investing more than $85 billion per year, on average, in capital expenditures, including investments in transmission and distribution infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, there is growing interest in rooftop solar panels and other small-scale, on-site distributed generation (DG) systems; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that when these rooftop solar and other DG systems first came to market years ago, many states approved a billing plan called net metering to encourage their introduction; and

WHEREAS, some states now have net metering policies that credit rooftop solar or other DG customers for
any excess electricity that they generate and sell using the grid and require utilities to buy this power; and

WHEREAS, the utilities are typically required to buy the excess electricity at the full retail rate despite the availability of lower rates through self-production or through wholesale market providers; and

WHEREAS, the full retail rate of electricity often includes the fixed costs of the poles, wires, meters, advanced technologies, and other infrastructure that make the electric grid safe, reliable, and able to accommodate solar panels and other DG systems; and

WHEREAS, when net-metered customers are credited for the full retail cost of electricity, they effectively avoid paying the grid costs, and these fixed costs for maintaining the grid then are shifted to those customers without rooftop solar or other DG systems through higher utility bills; and

WHEREAS, net-metered customers pull energy from the grid in the absence of sunshine, and must use the grid to feed energy back into the grid when the solar unit is generating more power than the customer needs; and

WHEREAS, all consumers who use the electric grid should pay to support its maintenance and to ensure its reliability; and

WHEREAS, net metering policies allow customers with rooftop solar or other DG systems to unfairly profit from exporting excess energy back to the grid while penalizing customers with basic energy needs who cannot afford rooftop solar or other DG systems; and

WHEREAS, African American households experience disproportionate levels of poverty, exceeding the national average, and have lower household income than their non-African American counterparts; and

WHEREAS, a lack of electric power affordability disproportionally impacts economically disadvantaged sectors and threatens the long term financial stability of our country; and

WHEREAS, shifting costs from those who can afford DG systems to low-income customers and others unable to afford or qualify for rooftop solar leases is an unfair financial burden; and

WHEREAS, energy regulation, including net metering policies, should protect vulnerable populations from drastic price increases or cost-shifting caused by energy production conversion from conventional to renewable sources; and

WHEREAS, the use of rooftop solar and other DG systems now has become more widespread, and many states are reviewing their net metering policies; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Policy Alliance, which includes the leadership of — Blacks in Government, National Association of Black County Officials, The National Bar, National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, National Black Caucus of School Board Members, National Black Caucus of State Legislators, National Conference of Black Mayors and the World Conference of Mayors — encourages state policymakers and regulators to recognize the value the electric grid delivers to all and to:

1. Update net metering policies to require that everyone who uses the grid helps pay to maintain it and to keep it operating reliably at all times; and
2. Create a fixed grid charge or other rate mechanisms that recover grid costs from DG systems to ensure
that costs are transparent to the customer; and
3. Ensure electric rates are fair and affordable for all customers and that all customers have safe and reliable electricity.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, other federal officials, and Governors and other state government officials as appropriate.

Propose Emergency Resolution On Homicide as the Leading Cause of Death Among Young African American Males

WHEREAS, homicide is among the leading causes of death for people aged 15 to 44 years worldwide; and

WHEREAS, many more people die from homicide than from war; and

WHEREAS, worldwide for every death due to war, there are three deaths due to homicide; and

WHEREAS, African American males between the ages of 18 and 35 have a 40 to 50% chance of dying or being incarcerated by their 36th birthday as a result of a shooting, violent crime or murder; and

WHEREAS, while African Americans comprise 14% of the United States population, 43% of all murder victims in 2007 were African American, 93.1% of whom were killed by African Americans; and

WHEREAS, a 2007 U. S. Department of Health Centers for Disease Control and Prevention study concluded that the leading cause of death for African American males between the ages of 15 and 34 is homicide; and

WHEREAS, the same study concluded that the second leading cause of death for African American males between the ages of 1 and 4 and 10 and 14 is homicide; and

WHEREAS, behavioral and mood disorders of perpetrators of violence, are critical aspects of the violence that leads to homicide; and

WHEREAS, the resulting psychological and physical impact on victims and their families, leading to mental health issues, requires the immediate attention of the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the effects of violence extend far beyond the impact on individuals’ health and livelihoods – they shape the well-being and social fabric of families and communities, and can have a negative impact on a city’s economic prospects; and

WHEREAS, each year, nearly $4.5 billion is spent nationally on healthcare related to violence, including burial costs, counseling services, healthcare costs, property damage, lost jobs and lost industry; and

WHEREAS, alcohol and drug addictions significantly contribute to the commission of violent crime; and

WHEREAS, though violence is pervasive, evidence suggests that the factors that contribute to violent
responses – whether they are factors of attitude and behavior or related to larger social, economic, political and cultural conditions – can be changed, and that violence can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has documented scientific evidence that the following interventions effectively prevent violence: 1) developing safe, stable, and nurturing relationships between children and their parents and caregivers through home visiting programs and child-rearing education; 2) developing life skills in children and adolescents; 3) reducing the availability and harmful use of alcohol by reducing the number of alcohol retail outlets and offering interventions and treatment for problem drinkers; 4) reducing access to guns and knives through enforced bans on carrying firearms in public; and 5) promoting gender equality to prevent violence against women through school and community interventions and education; and

WHEREAS, this resolution constitutes an emergency measure for the immediate preservation of public peace, property, health and safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS adopts this resolution as an emergency initiative for the purpose of saving more lives and preserving the mental and physical wellbeing of families in our communities and requests that the National League of Cities advances this message to its advocacy priorities for 2012 and continuing until there is a significant reduction in the statistics.

RESOLVED, THIS THE ____________ DAY OF _________2012.

Submitted by City Councilmember Deborah Delgado
President, NBC-LEO

Resolution to Administer the Distribution of AIDS Funding Proportionally to Infected Groups Within the United States

Whereas, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has reported that 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV infection and 1 in 5 are unaware of their infection, and African Americans face the most severe burden of HIV, despite the fact that African Americans make up only 12 percent of the U.S. population, as reported by the CDC, ACT against AIDS Leadership Initiative. And whereas, despite increases in the total number of people in the U.S. living with HIV infection in recent years (due to better testing and treatment options), the annual number of new HIV infections has remained relatively stable. However, new infections continue at far too high of a level, with approximately 50,000 Americans becoming infected with HIV each year. And whereas HIV was the 4th leading cause of death for Black men and 3rd for Black women, ages 25–44, in 2007, ranking higher than their respective counterparts in any other racial/ethnic group. And whereas, new data indicates that African American women account for the largest share of new HIV infections among women (57%) and African American women also account for the majority of new AIDS diagnoses among women in general (64% in 2009); white and Latina women account for 15% and 18% of new AIDS diagnoses, respectively. And whereas African-American women represented more than a third (34%) of AIDS diagnoses among Blacks (Black men and women combined) in 2009; by comparison, white women represented 14% of AIDS
diagnoses among whites in 2009. Now therefore, be it resolved that the Obama Administration take immediate action to administer Federal funding for HIV prevention and care proportionally to the statistical averages affecting individuals within the United States, with specific focus on the fastest growing population of HIV infections—African American women, and develop HIV prevention services within communities most significantly impacted, as evidenced within the latest CDC statistical data.

Submitted By J. David Reeves
National President, Blacks In Government

Support to Increase Funding to African American Farmers

The National Policy Alliance supports equitable access of African American farmers to the 2008 Farm Bill’s allocated resources. The five-year budget for the Farm Bill exceeds $280 billion and impacts every aspect of rural life, including nutrition and agriculture, housing, economic development and infrastructure, education, and community facilities. Since it began, African American farmers and communities have received a disproportionately low share of the allocated funding. Indeed, only $1.5 billion of the $280 billion goes to all minorities, with African Americans receiving a share. With the failure of the Congressional Supercommittee to reach a debt deal, which has triggered across-the-board cuts of 25% to this and other programs, African American farmers, already marginalized, face even greater danger in their fight for survival. Rather than across-the-board cuts to the Farm Bill, the National Policy Alliance calls for fairness and responsible policymaking that issues strategic, targeted cuts that ensure equitable access to the Farm Bill’s existing resources and development opportunities.

Submitted By Ajenai Simmons
National Black Caucus of State Legislators

Suppression Of The Right to Vote

Whereas there has been much discussion about voter id’s and whereas there exists a very practical possibility of those actions resulting in voter suppression, therefore be it resolved that the National Policy Alliance (NPA) asks the President to work with the Department of Justice to review carefully these initiatives with a focus on increasing voter participation and not doing anything as a nation that would encourage or offer support to any initiative that may suppress access to the right to vote. Be it resolved that the NPA, representing over 80 million Americans, has passed this resolution at its Biennial meeting, this March the 30th 2012, in Washington, DC.

Submitted By Kanisha Williams-Jones
National Black Caucus of School Board Members

Requesting the White House to Educate and Enforce Congressman James Clyburn’s (SC) 10-20-30 Initiative
Whereas in the United States, there are 474 counties where 20 percent or more of the population has been living below the poverty line for the last thirty years. The counties are as diverse as our great nation; Appalachian communities in Kentucky and North Carolina, Native American communities in South Dakota and Alaska, Latino communities in Arizona and New Mexico, and African American communities in Mississippi and South Carolina. They lack access to quality schools, affordable quality health care and adequate job opportunities.

This is not a partisan issue. In 2009, these counties were represented by 43 Democrats and 84 Republicans in Congress. Democrats represented 149 of them, with a total population of 8.8 million; Republicans 311, with a total population of 8.3 million; and 14, with a total population of 5.3 million, were split between Republicans and Democrats.

Whereas, the National Policy Alliance is aware the 10-20-30 Initiative was included in the Recovery Act, which included a provision that directed at least 10 percent of rural development investments to communities where 20 percent or more of the population had lived below the poverty line for the last 30 years.

Whereas the NPA is asking the President and the White House Administration to help educate and enforce this worthwhile initiative introduced by Congressman Clyburn. Now be it resolved, the NPA, which represents 70 million Americans and over 30,000 elected officials, is ready to lend their support to the President in promoting this endeavor.

Support of the Power Industry

WHEREAS, the National Policy Alliance (NPA) and its member organizations recognize the importance of the electric power sector to our personal well-being and the health of our nation’s economy;

WHEREAS, a diverse use of fuels using all domestic natural resources will improve our national economic security;

WHEREAS, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is engaged in the development of public health and environmental regulations that will directly impact the electric power sector and those who rely on electricity in our daily lives;

WHEREAS, the EPA is considering designating coal combustion products as hazardous waste;

WHEREAS, on August 9, 1993, U.S. EPA published a regulatory determination that regulation of the four large volume coal combustion wastes (fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, and flue gas emission control waste) as hazardous waste under Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Subtitle C is “unwarranted;”

WHEREAS, on May 22, 2000, U.S. EPA published a final regulatory determination that fossil fuel combustion wastes, including coal combustion wastes, “do not warrant regulation [as hazardous waste] under Subtitle C of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act,” and that “the regulatory infrastructure is generally in place at the state level to ensure adequate management of these wastes;”

WHEREAS, coal combustion produces a material that can be beneficially used in a variety of ways including highway and road construction, mine land reclamation and as virgin material by replacing clay, sand, cement or other aggregates, conserving natural resources, saving energy and avoiding the generation of pollution.
from the production and processing of the materials coal combustion products replace, and the designation of coal combustion products as hazardous waste would threaten such use;

WHEREAS, a designation of coal combustion products as a hazardous waste would result in the United States experiencing a net loss of an estimated 184,000 to 316,000 jobs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National Policy Alliance urges the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to ensure that as it deliberates the coal ash designation it considers:

1. the beneficial use of recycling this by-product
   1. how to minimize cost impacts on consumers, while ensuring long-term health costs to both our communities and our environment are taken into account;
   2. protect environment and vulnerable ecosystems from further degradation;
   3. how to minimize employment loss;
   4. provide an appropriate degree of flexibility and timeframes for compliance that recognizes the highly localized and regional nature of the provision of electricity services in the United States;
   5. engage in timely and meaningful dialogue with state energy regulators and other stakeholders in pursuit of these objectives; and
   6. recognize and account for, state or regional efforts already undertaken to address environmental challenges;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NPA urges the EPA to not designate coal ash as hazardous waste;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that if U.S. EPA promulgates federal regulations for the regulation of coal combustion products under state coal ash waste management programs;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NPA urges state utility regulators to actively engage with state and federal environmental regulators and to take other appropriate actions in furtherance of the goals of this resolution; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, the EPA Administrator and other federal and state government officials as appropriate.

Submitted By Brian McCormack
Edison Electric Institute

RESOLUTION CONCERNING EPA’S CARBON POLICIES

June 25, 2014

WHEREAS, it is important to build on the substantial environmental progress made by the United States; and

WHEREAS, the National Policy Alliance supports sensible measures to address climate change and;
WHEREAS, the U.S. must pursue an energy strategy that ensures affordable and reliable energy for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the domestic coal-based electric power industry has provided affordable and reliable electric supplies and has contributed to environmental progress by reducing harmful air emissions by nearly 90 percent per kilowatt-hour of electricity generated since 1970; and

WHEREAS, the domestic coal-based electric power industry will have invested $145 billion through 2016 to achieve these emission reductions; and

WHEREAS, on June 2, 2014, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued proposed guidelines under the federal Clean Air Act to reduce carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from existing fossil fuel-fired power plants; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. electric sector emits four percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and, as a consequence, unilateral actions by the U.S. will not have a meaningful effect on climate change; and

WHEREAS, policies to reduce CO2 emissions are likely to increase energy costs; and

WHEREAS, increases in energy costs have a disproportionately greater impact on minority families, fixed and low-income consumers and minority owned businesses; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Policy Alliance urges EPA and the Administration ensure that its guidelines and other policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions minimize costs, do not cause employment losses, support advancements in fossil fuel technologies such as carbon capture and storage, and do not cause increases in energy prices that will harm low-income electric consumers, minority families and minority businesses; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Policy Alliance urges President Obama and members of the Administration to ensure that workers displaced by CO2 reduction policies are afforded re-employment training; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the National Policy Alliance will transmit this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, the Administrator of the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Governors, and state public utility commissions.

Presented by: Jade Davis, ACCCE
Motioned by: Darlene Young, BIG
Seconded by: Ellis Alexander, NBCSBM

AHF HIV Prevention

June 24, 2014

WHEREAS:
Access to HIV prevention, care and treatment for HIV/AIDS should be universal:

African American communities continue to be disproportionately impacted by:

Lack of access to clinics for care and HIV testing, as well as to condoms and safer sex educational opportunities;

High levels of stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS in these communities prevent people from learning their HIV status, or from seeking care and speaking honestly with their sexual partners if they know they are positive;

Both society and the health care industry have marginalized members of these communities both on account of sexual orientation and race, blocking essential treatment, care, and education for those who need it.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The National Policy Alliance (NPA) recognizes that HIV/AIDS is a civil rights issue. The members of the National Policy Alliance, shall commit to illuminating and fighting the persisting bias against communities of color as we collectively strive to lower the incidence of HIV/AIDS, and together we can ensure all communities have equal access to the tools we need in this fight.

Presented By Ed Jones, AHF
Motioned by: Adam McFadden, NBC-LEO
Seconded by: Darlene Young, BIG

School – Community Partnerships

June 24, 2014

Whereas, over the past decade, progress has been made to keep students engaged and to bolster rates of college and career readiness. The national high school graduation rates for the class of 2010 reached approximately 75 percent. Despite these gains, far too many young people, especially students of color from educationally and socioeconomically disadvantaged groups and communities, are leaving school without a high school diploma or are severely underprepared for college level work.

Whereas, it is a national imperative that students have access to a high-quality comprehensive education that prepares them for to be academically, socially and emotionally ready for college and the workforce.

Whereas, all students must be provided a positive, supportive, safe, challenging and equitable learning environment.

Whereas, the environment must provide adequate, quality opportunities and support to educate the whole child.

Whereas, this is a shared responsibility of the school district, family local government, service providers, faith based organizations, higher education and the business and philanthropic communities.
Whereas, the development of a community that shares a vision, purpose, practices, and responsibility is paramount to student, family and community success.

Whereas, effective partnerships are intentional, inclusive and collaborative in nature.

Therefore, Be It resolved, that the National Policy Alliance encourages, endorses, and supports community, family, municipality, and school partnerships that meet the need of all children. Each entity shares common goals related to the educational physical health and social well-being of children and youth within the classroom and community. School-community partnerships can weave together critical resources and enhance strategies that students and their families can use to promote success at school and beyond.

Presented by: Ellis Alexander, NBCSBM
Motioned by: Tawana Keels
Seconded by: Thomas Coley, NABCO

Supporting Equitable Access to Clean Energy

June 24, 2014

WHEREAS, it is essential that the government and private sector continue to develop and assure universal access to a clean energy portfolio; and

WHEREAS, we applaud President Obama’s call for new advancements and innovations in electricity generation, delivery and efficiency to curb carbon emissions that are believed to contribute to climate change and encourage a smooth and transparent transition; and

WHEREAS, unless clean energy is affordable to all economic demographics its promise is limited; and

WHEREAS, policymakers need to be aware that policies that increase the cost of energy or shift energy costs from one class of consumers to another cause the greatest amount of economic harm to lower-income individuals and families; and

WHEREAS, the National Policy Alliance has continued to stand for and call upon policymakers to consider pursue policies that are economically and environmentally beneficially; and

WHEREAS, electric utilities and other energy service providers should partner with the Administration and sate policymakers to enact energy policies in the most fair and equitable way, and;

WHEREAS, state regulators should use all the authorities available to ensure policy proposals undergo real and measurable economic and environmental cost and benefit analysis; and

WHEREAS, we continue to believe that innovative technologies, including distributed energy resources and efficiency, are an important part of the energy mix; and

WHEREAS, if federal or state governments offer incentives for clean energy they should be for the community’s benefit, not for financial institutions using for their own enrichment; and
WHEREAS, outdated policies, like net metering, continue to undermine the financial health of people not able to afford distributed generation systems or who do not otherwise qualify; and

WHEREAS, the California Public Utility Commission commissioned a study that found a $1.1 billion dollar imbalance of costs related to their net metering policy and other state commissions are finding similar impacts; and

WHEREAS, policymakers that recognize this inequity and who are taking action should be publicly acknowledged encourage to take further corrective action; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Policy Alliance will continue to support the deployment of clean energy sources, like wind and solar, only if they can be priced in a way that is fair and equitable for all consumers; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Policy Alliance will work with the Administration and other key stakeholders to further promote access to affordable clean energy in order to improve the environment for all consumers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the National Policy Alliance will transmit this Resolution to the President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, the Administrator of the U.S. EPA, the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Governors and state public utility/service commissions.

Presented by Brian McCormack, EEI
Motioned by: Johnny Ford, WCM
Seconded by: Adam McFadden, NBC-LEO

Voting Rights Act Resolution

June 25, 2014

Whereas, the Voting Rights Act prevents the disenfranchisement of voters due to race, color or language and has protected the right to vote for millions of Americans;

Whereas, upon initial enactment of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, millions of African American citizens were able to vote for the first time and the number of Americans serving in elected office increased from 1,500 in 1970 to over 10,000 in 2010;

Whereas, on several occasions since 1965 and as recently as 2006, the U.S. Congress has recognized the need for and taken appropriate action to amend, extend and strengthen the Voting Rights Act, including as recently as 2006;

Whereas, since 2011, 176 bills have been proposed in 42 states that would have the effect of restricting voter access to the polls, such as requirements for specific forms of government issued photo identification to register to vote or cast a ballot and these restrictive measures disproportionately affect minority, elderly,
young and low income voters who lack photo identification in numbers significantly higher than other American citizens.

Whereas, in June 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned a key provision of the Voting Rights Act, referred to as the “coverage formula”, which determines the states that must pre-clear with the U.S. Department of Justice all changes in voting rules before they take effect.

Whereas, the U.S. Congress has the authority to enact a new coverage formula and other measures to strengthen the Voting Rights Act;

Whereas, voting is the cornerstone of America’s Democracy and the single most important way to have a voice in governance and therefore access to voting should be free and fair to all citizens.

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the National Policy Alliance calls upon the Congress to act immediately to restore a Voting Rights Act coverage formula; and

Therefore, Be It resolved, that the National Policy Alliance calls upon the Congress to enact any and all measures necessary to prevent actions by states that have the effect of disenfranchising Americans whose right to vote is protected under the Voting Rights Act.

Presented by: Gracia M. Hillman, Hillman Associates
Motioned by: Denise Langford Morris, NBA Judicial Council
Seconded by: Darlene Young, BIG

© 2014 The National Policy Alliance. Web design and maintenance by Flow!nteractive
Back to Top