

HUMAN RIGHTS

2020 Resolutions

- ***Darrell Lausche, Chair, Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, Local 795**
- *Mona Al-Hayani, Toledo Federation of Teachers, Local 250
- *David Beaverson, Owens Support Staff Union, Local 6325
- *Kimmer Cave, Berea Federation of Teachers, Local 1699
- *Dorothy Fair, Cleveland Teachers Union, Local 279
- *DeAnn Fontanella, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Local 1520
- *Chandra Gardner, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Local 1520
- *Michele George, Berea Federation of Teachers, Local 1699
- *Stephanie Henderson, Cleveland Teachers Union, Local 279
- *Daniel Hershman-Rossi, Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, Local 795
- *Katy Hess, Oregon City Federation of Teachers, Local 1080
- *Hazel Hicks, Cleveland Teachers Union Retired, Local 279-R
- *Robin Marken, Berea Federation of Teachers, Local 1699
- *Carolyn Pavel, Cleveland Heights Teachers Union, Local 795
- *Jennifer Scheiderer, Cincinnati Federation of Teachers, Local 1520
- *Jacqueline Washington, Toledo Federation of Teachers, Local 250
- *Jennifer Young, Oregon City Federation of Teachers, Local 1080
- ***Kim Luther - OFT Staff**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND WOMEN'S INCLUSION IN HEALTHCARE DECISIONS

WHEREAS, a large body of research confirms that having women at the table results in policies that are better for women's health and for human rights; and

WHEREAS, women are often excluded from conversations regarding women's healthcare; and

WHEREAS, federal lawmakers are leading many concerning assaults on the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid that affect women's health, specifically in underrepresented and minority populations, including defunding any service provider that gives a woman reproductive and maternal health services; and

WHEREAS, scientifically based, comprehensive information regarding women's reproductive health is being censored in some venues, and federal funding for women's healthcare is under attack; and

WHEREAS, some insurance companies and employers are limiting women's contraceptive choices based on nonfactual information and personal beliefs; and

WHEREAS, the federal Food and Drug Administration has a history of approving drugs and devices with limited inclusion of women, people of color, and other subpopulations in testing;

and

WHEREAS, approximately 200,000 rape kits across the United States have gone untested; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State released its annual Human Rights report on April 20, 2018, and the document dramatically scaled back its reporting on women's reproductive health and rights; and

WHEREAS, pregnant women detained and held by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are not always receiving appropriate prenatal care; and

WHEREAS, the federal government and some states are mounting campaigns and restrictions against abortion services, as well as threatening funding for organizations that provide women with comprehensive and medically accurate reproductive choices and services; and

WHEREAS, in the Ohio Heartbeat Bill, the state medical board can call an emergency meeting when a physician is accused of performing an abortion after the heartbeat is detectable, which could determine whether to suspend or revoke their license and/or face prosecution; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) fully supports the decision in the case of Roe vs. Wade, a landmark decision issued in 1973 by the United States Supreme Court on the issue of the constitutionality of laws that criminalized or restricted access to abortions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will continue to defend and support strengthening the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid to ensure that low-income women and their families have affordable insurance options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will support policies that advance health equity, and address affordability and access barriers that affect women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will support partners in legislative arenas and during contract negotiations to ensure health insurance markets and employer-based health plans offer comprehensive care plans that cover unrestricted reproductive health coverage; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will support the federal Food and Drug Administration's plans to increase inclusion of women, people of color, and other marginalized populations in testing drugs and medical devices prior to approval, and encourage the agency to be transparent in its findings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will work to ensure any detained pregnant woman is provided with immediate and ongoing quality prenatal and obstetric care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will engage policymakers and state legislators to work toward policies that protect and benefit women's health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will support the Joyful Heart Foundation and others as they advocate for state lawmakers to approve funding to pursue testing of untested rape

kits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will encourage its members to contact their congressional representatives and request that they demand the U.S. Department of State restore full reporting of women's health and reproductive statistics in its annual Human Rights Report, beginning in 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the OFT will encourage its members to contact their congressional representatives to revoke the two final rules on display at the Federal Register that were announced on November 7, 2018, by the Departments of Health and Human Services, Treasury, and Labor that provide conscience protections to Americans who have a religious or moral objection to health insurance that covers contraceptive methods, including certain contraceptives that many view as abortifacients, and/or sterilization procedures; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the OFT will encourage legislators to include women in all conversations and decisions regarding women's healthcare and support organizations that provide women with access to comprehensive medical care, medically accurate reproductive health services, and education.

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Kim Luther - OFT Staff

RESOLUTION ENDORSING OHIO BUSINESS COMPETES

WHEREAS, the state of Ohio does not include equal protection under the law to members of the LGBTQ+ community regarding employment, housing, access to public services, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Senate and Ohio House of Representatives have companion Ohio Fairness Act bills introduced in the 133rd General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, neither version of the Ohio Fairness Act has been currently passed; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) passed a Resolution Supporting the Ohio Fairness Act at the OFT Convention in February 2018; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Business Competes is a non-partisan coalition of businesses, universities, and labor organizations; including United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) 75, the Ohio AFL-CIO and Ohio Education Association (OEA); and

WHEREAS, Ohio Business Competes is committed to achieving nondiscrimination policies at the state level in order to attract the best talent, to increase business-to-business and business-to-consumer relationships, and to grow Ohio's economy; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Business Competes is also working to pass the Ohio Fairness Act; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the OFT continues to work toward the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ community members under the law; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the OFT adds its name to the list of organizations endorsing the work of Ohio Business Competes.

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IN CELEBRATION OF VOTING RIGHTS MILESTONES

WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment to the United States Constitution was ratified during the Reconstruction Era after the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, on February 3, 1870, ratification of the 15th Amendment declared “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.”; and

WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment was adopted to protect the freedoms outlined in the 13th and 14th Amendments; and

WHEREAS, the 15th Amendment helped to lay the groundwork for the civil rights movement of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s; and

WHEREAS, the campaign for women’s suffrage began to grow in the decades before the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, in 1848, the first women’s rights convention was organized in Seneca Falls, New York, by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott; and

WHEREAS, a *Declaration of Sentiments* was drafted at that convention, including the right of women to vote; and

WHEREAS, women such as Susan B. Anthony and countless other activists fought tirelessly for women to be able to exercise their right to vote; and

WHEREAS, on August 18, 1920, ratification of the 19th Amendment occurred, guaranteeing women the right to vote; and

WHEREAS, more than eight million women across the United States of America voted in elections for the first time on November 2, 1920; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Federation of Teachers (OFT) passed a *Resolution Opposing the Ohio General Assembly's Efforts to Implement Laws that Disenfranchise Voters* at the 2014 OFT Convention, showing support for voter rights; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the OFT celebrates the sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the ratification of the 15th Amendment and the centennial (100th anniversary) of the ratification of the 19th Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the OFT will continue to resist any form of legislation that restricts the freedom of citizens to vote; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the OFT will support legislation that makes voting more accessible to the citizens of Ohio and the United States of America.