Resolution to Defeat Trump’s Agenda

WHEREAS in 2005, the Michigan Nurses Association’s/MNA House of Delegates passed the Action Report entitled Social Security that called for the Association to actively oppose sweeping changes that would harm program’s payments to the elderly and disabled, and that the MNA will not endorse in any manner any candidate for public office who expresses support, advocates for, or votes for any plan that weakens Social Security; and

WHEREAS in 2011, the Huron Valley Central Labor Council/HVCLC passed the Resolution to Defend Social Security that is part resolved that the American people reject all attempts to privatize the program, work in a bipartisan manner to strengthen the program’s guarantees of recipient income security, and that the HVCLC will deny support to any candidate that would diminish the program’s benefits; and

WHEREAS in a 5.16.16 Huffington Post Politics piece entitled, Trump and Ryan Agree: Let’s Dismantle Social Security, it asserts that Trump in the past has referred to Social Security as a ‘ponzi scheme,’ proposed increasing the retirement age to 70 years, and stated that, ‘privatization would be good for all of us, and as recently as 2011 said that he agreed with plans to cut Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid; and

WHEREAS in a 5.12.16 in Money Box: A blog about business and economics’ article states that Trump’s chief policy advisor Sam Clovis suggested that Trump would, in fact, be open to curbing entitlements if his proposed tax cuts did not create a surplus; and

WHEREAS in 2012 the MNA House of Delegates passed a Resolution to Protect the Middle Class and the Right to Collectively Bargain which in part stated that the MNA will mobilize and educate members about the importance of protecting working families from the harm of attacks on the right to collectively bargain; and

WHEREAS in a 8.21.15 piece in the Nation entitled, No Surprise: Trump Is a Union Buster at His Own Hotel, it cites that five hotel workers were reinstated with full back pay by the Labor Board after being fired for exerting their labor rights of being able to wear union buttons and to freely associate with other workers who wanted to organize, and in the 5.28.16 Los Angeles Times’ article Trump’s Clash with Las Vegas Union Highlights His Unpredictability, that since employees of the Trump International Hotel voted to join the Trump has fought the employees right to organize every step of the way, and after the Labor Board dismissed allegations by Trump, the union was certified as the employees’ bargaining agent; and

WHEREAS in 2012 the MNA House of Delegates passed without a dissenting vote Resolution to Defend Our Democracy and Defeat Ultra-Conservative Extremism that in part resolved that the Association advances democracy over extremism, increases the public’s awareness of the threats by the extreme ultra-conservatives; and

WHEREAS in a 5.18.16 Washington Post Op-Ed piece by the Brookings Institution’s Robert Kagan states that Trump, ‘offers an attitude, an aura of crude strength and machismo, a boasting disrespect for the niceties of the democratic culture that he claims, and his many of his followers believe, has produced national weakness and incompetence,’ and that movements like Trump’s have arisen in other democratic and quasi-democratic countries over the past century, and it has generally been called fascism; and
WHEREAS in an 8.5.2015 piece by the Southern Poverty Law Center entitled Trump 2016: White Nationalists Throw Their Support Behind The Donald contends that Trump’s political style and messages about immigration have amounted what many in the movement argue is a threat to the two-party system, and that Jared Taylor, one of the most influential white nationalists and founder of the racist journal American Renaissance, also praises Trump for his views on Mexicans by stating, ‘Americans, real Americans have been dreaming of a candidate who says the obvious, that illegal immigrants from Mexico are a low-rent bunch that includes rapists and murders,’ and that Trump’s comments about Mexican’s are more than the off-the-cuff mutterings of a political candidate – they also are part of a broader anti-immigrant narrative sitting at the core of white nationalism; and

WHEREAS in 2012 the MNA House of Delegates passed the Resolution to Support the Robin Hood Tax in an attempt to shift some of the tax burden in a more progressive manner to the wealthy and corporations, and according to Citizens for Tax Justice/CTJ senior policy analyst, Richard Phillips, contends that Trump’s tax proposals would likely sharply increase the national debt and make the U.S. tax system substantially more regressive by both cutting taxes for the rich and creating a massive new tax that would disproportionately hurt lower-income Americans while eliminating both the estate and corporate tax and lowering the capital gains tax rate which would go overwhelming to the wealthiest Americans, and in addition, Trump’s lower tax rate structure would provide the wealthy with huge tax cuts on top of the already large tax breaks they have received; and

WHEREAS in 2014 the MNA House of Delegates passed Resolution in Support of the 2014 Ballot Initiative to Raise the State of Michigan Minimum Wage cited that our profession’s involvement in wage fairness arises from our deeply-rooted commitment of patient advocacy, and to address income inequality is so all workers can share in the great wealth our nation creates, and that according to the 11.11.15 article in The Hill by Ben Kamisar, Trump stated the US wages are too high and is quoted, ‘I hate to say it, but we have to leave it the way it is,’ referring to the federal minimum wage; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED so that we can preserve our nation’s long-standing ideals of the rule of law as embodied by the U.S. Constitution and its Bill of Rights, the Michigan Nurses Association pledges to work within mass-based, diverse coalitions to defeat Trump and his movement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED our Association supports increasing public awareness of the threats to our democracy and working families’ standard of living posed by Trump and his movement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan Nurses Association will mobilize and educate the nursing community and our fellow-citizens of the necessity of defeating Trump; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED Association is hereby directed to transmit copies of this resolution to the State of Michigan AFL-CIO within five days of its affirmation by the Association’s House of Delegates.

SUBMITTED BY Board of Directors
Authored by John Armelagos, RN, MNA President