RESOLUTION

BIG STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE’S 2019 STATE OF BLACK AMERICA REPORT IDENTIFYING ERROSION OF THE 1965 VOTING RIGHTS ACT

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976, as a 501[c]3 non-profit organization to, educate and advocate on behalf of Federal, State and Municipal government employees and today, BIG seeks to represent 2.5 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address discrimination in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

WHEREAS; In May 2019, the National Urban League released an annual 2019 State of Black America, Getting 2 Equal: United Not Divided, that focused on the state of the Black vote with an emphasis on its power and heightened vulnerability to suppression; and

WHEREAS; National Urban League President Marc Morial talked about the impact of the 2013 Supreme Court case of Shelby v. Holder and current efforts by state legislatures and Russian election interference on voting rights; and

WHEREAS: The report states that our nation’s pursuit of liberty, justice and economic empowerment for all hinges largely on the right to determine who will govern us and how. Because the right to vote is the price of full admission to participate in our democracy, the National Urban League will remain on the frontlines of the battle to protect your fundamental right to vote; and

WHEREAS; Morial said; “We cannot stand on the side in our perspective states and locales and watch the right to vote be eroded”; and

WHEREAS; Morial said; “This is an area where our voices, the voices of our local CEO’s, the voices of volunteers have to be front and centered”; and

WHEREAS; The report exposes a massive, state-sponsored Russian operation to interfere in and influence the high stakes of the 2016 presidential election. Russian internet trolls were on a seek, destroy and divide mission, targeting African Americans with surgical precision on social media platforms and chipping away at our nation’s exposed racial fault lines; and
WHEREAS; The report maps and lay out in alarming and full display where barriers to the ballot are being feverishly erected and where civil rights groups, grassroots activists and men and women of good will are tearing down the walls of obstruction brick by brick; and

WHEREAS; Our nation’s pursuit of liberty, justice and economic empowerment for all hinges largely on the right to determine who will govern us and how. Because the right to vote is the price of full admission to participate in our democracy, the National Urban League pledged to remain on the frontlines of the battle to protect your fundamental right to vote; and

WHEREAS; the report finally states, from the testimonials of first-time voters to the platforms of presidential candidates, we explore the solemnity and significance of voting and its power to effect change at the local, state and national level.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

(1) The BIG National President will send a letter to Mark Morial, President of the National Urban League, thanking the Urban League for its tenacity in reporting the facts on African American voter suppression and advise that BIG will operate in solidarity with the Urban League on abating voter suppression.

(2) The BIG National President will send an electronic communication to its membership base advising them of this adopted resolution linked to the 2019 State of Black America, Urban League report and ask them to support the Urban League in its advocacy to abate State and Local efforts to erode the 1965 Voting Rights Act, and

(3) The BIG National President will direct its National BIG Vote Chair to write its National Urban League counterpart and express support on related State and Local voting rights issues

President Morial discuses 2019 State of Black America Report on MSNBC https://on.msnbc.com/2EUGaS2

*Some of the language for this resolution is verbatim from the 2019 State of Black America Urban League Report*

Submitted by:

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