# GFWC ALABAMA FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
# RESOLUTIONS POLICY

1. The Resolutions Committee shall handle resolutions for GFWC Alabama.

2. A Club, District, or a State Board member may submit recommendations for new resolutions or amendments to the existing resolutions for consideration to the Resolutions Committee Chairman no later than November 1. The Chairman shall send a copy of the proposed Resolutions no later than December 1 to the members of the Committee.

3. The duties of the Resolutions Committee shall include:

    - Assist Clubwomen in supporting legislation consistent with the policies and resolutions of GFWC Alabama and the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

    - Receive and consider proposed resolutions and to present to the **Convention** such resolutions as are pertinent to the work and objectives of GFWC Alabama.

    - Present proposed resolutions to the Board of Directors at the Winter Board meeting for their approval to recommend that the resolutions be considered at the **annual** convention.

    - Provide a copy of proposed resolutions to the State President so they can be included in the CALL to the annual convention at which they are to be considered.

    - Emergency resolutions are those with subject matter that has arisen since the preparation of the last CALL, or those that are governed by a definite time limit and delayed action would have disadvantages. The Resolutions Committee shall distribute emergency resolutions at the annual convention at which they are to be considered.

    - Resolutions to be considered by the State Board of Directors in session between Conventions shall be confined to matters which are governed by a definite time limit for effective action. Resolutions adopted by the State Board of Directors shall be presented to the next convention for approval. If not so presented or if not approved by the Convention, they may no longer remain in force.

    - Resolutions should be reviewed annually. Resolutions that remain current should be classified as reaffirmed. Resolutions that are changed should be classified as amended. Resolutions that are no longer relevant should be classified as rescinded. Notations should be recorded with the resolutions. Resolutions which are rescinded shall be removed from the resolutions.

# RESOLUTION GUIDELINES

## WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

A resolution is "a formal statement of opinion or determination adopted by an assembly or other group or person." A resolution is an original main motion, submitted in writing, which will provide direction for the organization that adopts it. A resolution is one sentence, which consists of two main parts, a preamble and a request for action - resolved(s). The exact format and punctuation should follow that of the resolutions in the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Club's Resolutions publication.

## PREAMBLE-WHEREAS STATEMENTS

The preamble clause of a resolution contains the background information and reason a resolution is needed. The language is formal and it is important to give sufficient information to make the intent clear. Each section of the preamble begins with the word "whereas" (which means because). Three to five "whereas" statements usually are sufficient to explain the problem you are addressing. Additional information can be used verbally when the resolution is presented at convention.

## REQUEST FOR ACTION - RESOLVES

The resolve(s) of a resolution establish a position or request action by the various entities of the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs and/or its individual clubs and members. Each request for action, "resolve," will begin with the word "resolved" and should state the requested action or position clearly and completely.

## SUBMITTING A RESOLUTION

If a resolution is being submitted by a club or district, it should be approved by the club or district and then be submitted to the Resolutions Chairman as outlined in the procedures provided in the Resolutions Policy of the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs. That policy will be followed in processing all proposed resolutions. If assistance is desired in writing or submitting a resolution, please contact the Resolutions Chairman.

## AFTER ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION

After the convention body adopts a resolution, it is important that everyone follows through on the action requested. Adopting a resolution is only the first step in causing an action or promoting a position. The appropriate chairmen will be pleased to assist in implementing resolutions.

## GFWC RESOLUTIONS

Resolutions serve as a statement of the Character of the Federation. These Resolutions reveal the objectives for which the majority of clubwomen work because they have been adopted by GFWC club delegates at annual conventions. They form the foundation upon which programs and projects are built, yet they are meaningless unless clubwomen actively promote them in every possible way. This is done through study, programs, projects and communications with those in positions that enable them to help accomplish the desired results. Resolutions are used as guidelines for action. Every club should have a copy of the Resolutions Book and should be sure that members are familiar with it. Copies may be obtained from:

General Federation of Women's Clubs, Materials Center
1734 N Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20003

# ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

## ART PRESERVATION

*Adopted April 1995; Reaffirmed 2003; Reaffirmed 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the preservation of art is fundamental to maintaining the integrity of the United States' history and culture; and

WHEREAS, Save Outdoor Sculpture seeks to inventory and protect outdoor sculpture threatened by weather, pollution, vandalism and neglect; and

WHEREAS, the restoration and preservation of cemetery monuments (tombstones) is an art form; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourages the restoration and preservation of outdoor sculpture.

## POSTAL ART

*Adopted April 1996; Reaffirmed 2003; Reaffirmed 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, The General Federation of Women's Clubs has provided information on New Deal Art in The United States Postal Service; and

WHEREAS, during the Depression, murals and sculptures depicting scenes of local significance were created for postal offices in an effort to restore citizens' confidence and hope; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has only maintained twenty-three of these murals and statues; and

WHEREAS, these murals and statues are located in all three AFWC Districts; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourages the preservation of the remaining Postal Art.

## SUPPORT OF ARTS IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

*Adopted 2017; Amended 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, arts enhance life in all its dimension and explore the realm of expression, imagination, and creation resulting in new knowledge; and

WHEREAS, recent studies have shown that participation in the arts improves confidence, social skills, learning skills, and children who participate in art programs are more likely to continue their education and adopt appropriate social behavior; and

WHEREAS, arts serve as a vehicle for communication not always achieved by presentation of historical and scientific fact; and

WHEREAS, Individuals of all ages who suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other disabilities will benefit from the healing process provided by art therapy; therefore

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges that arts in the broadest sense be integrated into curricula of preschools, elementary schools, and secondary schools and as many aspects of community life as possible, and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges that art therapy be incorporated in rehabilitation programs in hospitals, care facilities, and as many aspects of community life as possible; and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to encourage promotion and fundraising for all the arts, both visual and performing, in schools and communities.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR JUVENILE OFFENDERS

*Adopted April 1996; Reaffirmed* 2003; *Amended 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, during the last two decades there has been a huge increase in the number of convicted juveniles committed to the state's juvenile prison system; and

WHEREAS, crowded conditions in detention centers and shortage of space in youth prisons had produced an unacceptable practice of sending offenders to their homes to wait until space is available therefore allowing them the opportunity to commit more offenses; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs more actively support programs to facilitate the successful rehabilitation of offenders within the juvenile justice system; and further

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourage the Alabama Legislature to appropriate funds to adequately house convicted juvenile offenders.

### AQUATIC THRILL CRAFT SAFETY

*Adopted 2006; Reviewed 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, accidents from Parasail and other water sports products can result in fatalities and personal injuries; and

WHEREAS, there is no national safety legislation for parasail or water sports products; and

WHEREAS, the majority of states lack any Parasail safety equipment inspection legislation, that safety equipment usage and the inspections thereof are left to a voluntary honor system only; therefore

RESOLVED that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs:

1. Support passage of State and National Safety Legislation for Aquatic Thrill Craft Safety.

2. Support the height limitation guidelines set forth by the Federal Aviation Administration to limit Parasailing vertical heights to 500 feet in altitude or less.

3. Support legislation to enforce restrictive use of equipment during high wind conditions.

4. Support mandated safety school certification for all aquatic thrill craft operators.

5. Support a reasonable minimum age for all Parasail passengers.

6. Support punitive damages to aquatic thrill craft operators and passengers who use drugs or alcohol before or during the use of their equipment.

## CRIME PREVENTION

*Adopted 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, crime and the fear of crime are major concerns that affect the lives of all people; and

WHEREAS, there is a need for volunteer action programs; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to work with other organizations and law enforcement agencies to study the crime situation in their communities, examine resources available to prevent and reduce crimes, and initiate and promote programs in cooperation with law enforcement agencies that combat crime.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

*Adopted 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, domestic violence, which includes, but is not limited to physical, emotional, mental, financial, and sexual abuse, continues to increase within our society spanning across race, religion, gender, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, education, and socioeconomic lines and can cause emotional distress, physical injury, and death to children and adults; and

WHEREAS, many victims are forced to remain in dangerous situations because they are deliberately placed into financial dependence by their abuser; and

WHEREAS, domestic violence also includes dating violence, which is defined as the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship; and

WHEREAS, lack of dating experience subjects teens to situations where they are less likely to recognize signs and/or symptoms of abuse; and

WHEREAS, young people who witness violence, or are directly victimized by it, endure various emotional ramifications, and are at an increased risk of perpetuating violence in their own relationships; and

WHEREAS, many state laws and legal remedies only deal with certain areas of abuse and may be applied inconsistently, and there continues to be a need for emergency shelters and counseling services for victims of abuse; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support legislation and actively promote programs that:

- Identify at-risk families and suspected cases of child, spousal, partner and elder abuse;
- Increase awareness of the risks of financial dependence and provide necessary resources to become financially self-sufficient;
- Provide emergency aid and shelter for those who are forced to leave violent family settings;

- Provide treatment, support, legal aid, and advocacy for victims and rehabilitation for perpetrators of abuse;
- Provide public awareness and education programs concerning prevention of abuse; and

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to advocate for dating violence prevention programs in middle/junior high and high schools to increase awareness and promote healthy relationships; and

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to fully fund legislation that supports all victims of domestic violence without discrimination; and further

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to enlist the help of hospitals, doctors, clinics, educators, schools, lawyers, law enforcement, churches, counseling services, social service agencies, domestic violence shelters and programs, and clinics in a united effort for prevention of abuse and treatment of abused persons.

**FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM**

*Adopted February 16, 1985; Reaffirmed* 2003; *Reaffirmed 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, our economic system of free enterprise contributed greatly to the development of this country into a strong, free nation with one of the highest standards of living in the world history; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this free economy, America has been able to provide food, fiber, and minerals based on supply and demand, providing a system of checks and balances that serves all economic levels by assuring the fairest distribution of goods and services at the lowest possible cost; and

WHEREAS, the free enterprise system is being legislated and regulated out of the world marketplace; and therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs firmly support the free enterprise system, and that clubwomen become more aware and take action in legislative halls at state and national levels by urging legislators to be more concerned with the plight of the business community.

**HONORING ALABAMA VETERANS**

*Adopted April 1996; Reaffirmed* 2003; *Amended 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, Our military veterans have helped provide stability and safety to our citizens and allies;

WHEREAS, Many of these veterans are disabled; therefore

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs support all of these men and women with the respect and dignity they deserve; and further

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges is members to support legislation for funding by the Federal and State Governments for adequate medical care to meet present and future needs, including mental health benefits for those who experience Post- Traumatic Stress Disorder and proper medical and psychological treatment for female veterans who are survivors of sexual trauma and/or domestic violence experienced while they were in the military.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*Adopted 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of State and UNICEF, human trafficking is a modern form of slavery, involving victims who are typically forced, defrauded or coerced into sexual and labor exploitations; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is the world's fastest growing global crime and second largest source of illegal income worldwide exceeded only by drug trafficking. Annually:

- Over one million children are trafficked worldwide;
- Almost one million men, women, and children are trafficked across international borders;
- At least 20 million people are victims of forced labor worldwide; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to:

- Educate members and the public about the seriousness of human trafficking;
- Advocate for support and protection of victims and the prosecution of exploiters;
- Support law enforcement coordination within the United States and among countries;
- Encourage mandatory enforcement of existing laws in the United States.

## IDENTITY THEFT

*Adopted 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that identity theft, the stealing of someone's personal identification for criminal purposes, is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States; and

WHEREAS, identity theft is an invasive crime that can severely damage the victim's financial security and credit history; and

WHEREAS, identity theft is perpetrated by stealing personal information through credit cards, drivers' licenses, ATM cards, social security numbers and computer hacking; and

WHEREAS, governments and businesses increasingly use personal identification numbers, and technology expands and simplifies the dissemination of personal information; and

WHEREAS, the careful handling of personal information and documents, including the use of encrypted websites can reduce the risk of identity theft; therefore

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to educate themselves and their communities about identity theft, including child identity theft, its serious ramifications, and importance of, and methods for, protecting personal information, including the use of encrypted websites for the transfer of personal information; and

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to educate themselves and their communities about the importance of prompt reporting of any suspicious activity in their accounts and credit reports; and

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges government agencies and credit reporting bureaus to establish a simplified victim fraud alert process; and

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges public and private industries to create methods of protecting personal information, especially records available on the Internet, and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges it member clubs to support increased resources for the stringent enforcement of laws addressing identity theft.

**RENOVATION OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS**

*Adopted 1981; Reaffirmed* 2003; *Reaffirmed 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, construction of new buildings is often near areas of heavily traveled streets and causes additional traffic and congestion; and

WHEREAS, our rich heritage is exemplified by the architectural design and construction of historical buildings; and

WHEREAS, costs of renovation of existing properties is usually comparable and often less than the construction of new buildings; and

WHEREAS, renovation of properties often results in appreciated property values of surrounding areas; and

WHEREAS, renovation of properties often provides larger areas for offices and shop display than are usually allowed in new buildings because of the rising costs of construction; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourages the renovation and revival of historic neighborhoods and homes for residential dwellings; and further

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourage and acknowledge the practice of new businesses being located in historic buildings and areas where zoning ordinances allow.

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to record the history of and help preserve historic landmarks and artifacts; and

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourages its member clubs to partner with other civic organizations and government agencies to preserve historic buildings and landmarks; and further

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to study and preserve the history of their club and federation, including written and oral histories, buildings and artifacts.

**SAFETY FOR OLDER AMERICANS**

*Adopted April 1996; Reaffirmed* 2003; *Reaffirmed 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, personal safety for older Americans is a pressing concern for communities; and

WHEREAS, fire is a significant threat to the safety of many older Americans; and

WHEREAS, crime and the fear of crime shadow the lives of most older Americans, causing them to stay isolated In their homes rather than taking citizen action; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs take action by helping educate our elderly citizens on these important issues and to take action by contacting our legislators, urging them to pass laws that will protect our citizens against fraud and crime in the communities.

**SAFETY IN MOTOR VEHICLES**

*Adopted 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, motor vehicle crashes remain the leading cause of death and injury of children in this country under the age of 13; and

WHEREAS, all individuals riding in a vehicle who are unrestrained or improperly restrained have a significantly higher rate of injury and death in a motor vehicle crash; and

WHEREAS, the National Highway Transportation Safety Association recommends children be seated in a federally approved car or booster seat with properly fitting shoulder and lap belts based on height and weight; therefore

RESOLVED, that member clubs demand enforcement of state laws requiring safety restraint use for all individuals in a vehicle, and work to educate all citizens about their responsibility in protecting everyone who rides with them.

**SUPPORT OF ARMED FORCES**

*Adopted 2003*; *Reaffirmed 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs has always supported our nation's armed forces; and

WHEREAS, the nation is in an effort to combat terrorism; and

WHEREAS, there seem to be mixed feelings regarding armed combat; but even the deterrence of wars demands an ever-ready system of sufficient forces in all branches of the military system; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs supports the maintenance of a strong military force in sufficient numbers and quality, with the strength, equipment and organized deployment to fully meet its objectives to deter war in all forms and achieve victory should war be forced upon us; and further

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs supports the establishment of incentives in salary schedules, working and living conditions, and guaranteed retirement benefits which will make careers in the Armed Services of the United States sufficiently attractive to recruit new personnel and retain highly trained and efficient personnel;

RESOLVED, that the members of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs pledge their support to the members of our armed forces in whatever duties they are called upon to perform by our national government; and further

RESOLVED, that we actively acknowledge our service members' voluntary defense of our country.

## SWIFT TRIAL AND PUNISHMENT FOR RAPE

*Adopted April 1992; Reaffirmed 2003; Reviewed 2017; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, cases of rape continue to increase yearly; and

WHEREAS, in many cases rape is committed two or more times by the same person; and

WHEREAS, rape victims have to suffer for a lifetime the memories of rape; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges it member clubs to work to ensure that stronger laws be passed that will more quickly bring about swift trial and severe punishment; and further

RESOLVED, That the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to establish and/or support community awareness programs for sexual assault survivors to seek counseling and support as well as to alleviate the stigma affecting survivors, increase emphasis on prevention of sexual assault and dating violence through programs focused on bystander invention, and ensure that colleges and universities have comprehensive and easily accessible policies and clear procedures for reporting sexual assault.

## TERRORISM

*Adopted 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, terrorism continues to be a grave threat to all persons throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States of America is a target of terrorism, as tragically demonstrated on September 11, 2001; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs and its member clubs support anti-terrorism efforts including:

1. Developing and implementing a domestic anti-terrorism strategy; and
2. Providing training and financial aid to state and local government agencies and emergency response teams preparing for terrorist attacks; and
3. Educating members to better understand the vast forms of terrorism in order to be better prepared; and
4. Supporting legislation providing strong counter-terrorism programs; and
5. Encouraging enhanced communication and cooperation among participating agencies within the United States and internationally; and
6. The improvement and reform of anti-terrorism programs as necessary; and further

RESOLVED, that The GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States to work collaboratively with international organizations and governments to combat terrorism and reaffirms its conviction that any terrorist act is morally outrageous; and further

RESOLVED, that The GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs affirms its conviction that any terrorist act against the United States of America or other countries, any person or property, be investigated and necessary action taken to apprehend those responsible and to have them prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

## BROADBAND AUTHORITY & UTILIZATION

*Adopted 2020*

WHEREAS, Broadband is a high-capacity transmission technique using a wide range of frequencies, which enables many messages to be communicated simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, Broadband technology is a key component to economic development, education and government efficiency; and

WHEREAS, AFWC recognizes that citizens, schools, and businesses benefit from the availability and utilization of affordable broadband internet access; therefore

RESOLVED, That AFWC urges its member clubs to advocate for legislation that supports broadband planning and efforts to continue the growth of broadband infrastructure.

## SOCIAL MEDIA

*Adopted 2020*

WHEREAS, Social media are computer-mediated technologies that facilitate the creation and sharing of information, ideas, career interests, political views, and other forms of expression via virtual communities and networks; and

WHEREAS, Social media are an integral part of life online as social websites and applications proliferate; statistics in 2018 show 77% of Americans have a profile on, and 62% receive news from, social media; and

WHEREAS, Social media exert cultural, educational, political, religious, and social impact on countless users without regard to truth or validity of statements; and

WHEREAS, The potential exists for the abuse of social media by governmental and nongovernmental entities, commercial and public interests, and individuals; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to:

• Educate communities about the benefits and dangers of social media;

• Advocate that governments and private industry research ways to ensure privacy of social media accounts and accuracy of information distributed through social media;

• Conduct a legislative action campaign in support of legislation that establishes guidelines to prevent manipulation of users.

## MIRANDA'S LAW

*Adopted 2020*

WHEREAS, In the United States, 26 million students ride school buses each day driven by 480,000 bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, Each year, an average of 137 people are killed and about 17,000 children visit emergency rooms annually due to school bus-related accidents; and

WHEREAS, School districts and school bus companies should receive immediate notification of driver violations received by school bus drivers; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States Congress to pass Miranda's Law which would:

• Require the Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration agency to implement a nationwide employer notification service (ENS) for buses; and

• Demand automatic notification of driver violations to school districts and school bus companies within 24 hours, allowing immediate action to keep unsafe drivers off the road and away from children.

**3D PRINTED GUN SAFETY ACT**

*Adopted* 2020

WHEREAS, 3D printed guns are printed without serial numbers and are virtually untraceable; and

WHEREAS, 3D printed guns can be obtained without the controls required to obtain guns legally; and

WHEREAS, The quality of the 3D printed firearms will increase as the technology advances; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States Congress to pass the 3D Printed Gun Safety Act which will amend Chapter 44 of title 18 United States Code, to prohibit the publication of 3D printer plans for the printing of firearms and other purposes.

**EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN**

*Adopted* 2020

WHEREAS, Except with regard to the right to vote, the United States Constitution does not guarantee women the same legal status and protections guaranteed to men, and will not do so until an amendment for that purpose is included therein; and

WHEREAS, the operative clause of the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) states "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State, on account of sex;" and

WHEREAS, as of 2018, 37 of the required 38 states have ratified the ERA; and

WHEREAS, In the absence of the ERA, women's ability to combat sexual harassment and to achieve parity with men in the areas of healthcare, education, and employment will continue to be impaired; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs reaffirms its support of the ERA and urges its member clubs to work for the immediate ratification of the ERA in the 13 states that have yet to ratify it.

## FIREARM SAFETY AND RESPONSIBILITY

*Adopted* 2020

WHEREAS, On an annual basis, more than 20,000 people in the United States die by suicide using a firearm and suicides by firearm count for approximately two-thirds of all gun deaths in the United States; and

WHEREAS, research shows that:

• An estimated 4.6 million American children live in homes with at least one gun that is loaded and unlocked;

• 65% of unintentional gun deaths of children occur in a home or vehicle that belongs to the victim's family;

• In more than 50% of shootings in K-12 schools where the source of the firearm was known, the perpetrator obtained the gun from home; and

• Safe and secure storage of firearms and ammunition in the home prevents accidental shootings, especially among children; and

WHEREAS, prompt reporting of firearm thefts with the make, model, and serial number of the stolen firearm(s) assist law enforcement agencies in solving crimes and locating and arresting criminals; and therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support:

• Better public education, as well as state and local programs that promote the need for safe and secure storage of firearms and ammunition;

• The enactment of laws requiring gun owners to secure and safely store firearms and ammunition;

• The enactment of laws requiring the prompt reporting of firearm thefts to local law enforcement agencies, with such reports to include the make, model, and serial number of the stolen firearm(s);and

• Federal legislation that requires states and local law enforcement agencies to report gun thefts and crimes to the FBl's national database.

## INTERNATIONAL AID TO CHILDREN

*Adopted April 1996; Reaffirmed* 2003; *Amended 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs has always had a real sense of belief trat the lives of children in our world can be changed forever by our voluntary efforts without regard to those children's race, creed, nationality or the political situation in their homes; and

WHEREAS, children are still dying each day in developing countries from causes that have long been preventable; and

WHEREAS, children continue to suffer and/or die from unsafe drinking water, insufficient food, inadequate housing, disablements from war and terrorism, and defects from child birth; and

WHEREAS, there are outstanding programs and special projects approved by the General Federation of Women's Clubs and special Alabama Projects that make us aware of the needs of children around the globe; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs continue to support programs and projects concerning children around the world; and further

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs supports such organizations as CARE, Operation Smile and UNICEF through contributions, programs and community awareness.

**WORLD FOOD DAY**

*Adopted 2003; Reaffirmed 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs believes that no one should ever have to go hungry, regardless of race, creed, nationality, or political situations in their homes; and

WHEREAS, people around the world and in our own country are still going hungry each day; and

WHEREAS, there are outstanding programs and special projects approved by the General Federation of Women's Clubs; therefore

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs observe World Food Day on October 16th of each year; and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs support the World Food Day (WFD) efforts to increase awareness, and understanding, and encourage year- round action regarding issues of hunger and food security, both abroad and at home.

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

**EDUCATION**

*Adopted 2003; Reaffirmed 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs has always believed that education is a powerful weapon in combating many social issues including poverty, prejudice, health issues and inequality; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alabama's Department of Education faces serious administrative and financial problems; and

WHEREAS, Alabama historically ranks toward the bottom of the ranking for funds allocated for education and teachers' salaries; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs actively encourage its membership to participate in their area schools; and further

RESOLVED, that the members be encouraged to attend school board meetings, vote during local and

state school board elections, and in some instances seek election to said positions.

**ENGLISH, OFFICIAL U.S. LANGUAGE**

*Adopted 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the United States has been enriched by the cultural contributions of immigrants from many traditions, and blessed with one common language (English) which has united a diverse nation and fostered harmony among its people; and

WHEREAS, English is a world language which we share with many other nations and is the most widely used medium of international communications; and

WHEREAS, the public schools of the nation have a special obligation to transmit the common culture and civic values of the United States, and to accelerate the assimilation of immigrant students to American society; and

WHEREAS, English is our national language by custom only, enjoying no official protection, and is subject to erosion with increased use of other languages and slang which could be a divisive force within our nation; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs promote the passage of a bill at both the state and national levels making United States English the official language of the United States; and

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs supports the enforcement of the English language requirement for naturalization; and further

RESOLVED, that languages other than English are taught in our school systems only secondary to the study of English.

**SUPPORT OF LIBRARIES**

*Adopted 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, having been responsible for the founding of many of state's libraries, recognizes the contributions libraries can and should make to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, with the participation of the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, having exceeded its commitment made at the President's Summit for America's Future to contribute $12.5 million in books and materials to public school libraries and public libraries through "Libraries 2000"; therefore

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to continue strong support of existing libraries, to encourage extension of library services to those areas, rural and urban, not having access to public library services; and

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support National Children's Book Week in November and National Library Week in April; and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to continue strong support of Public School Libraries, especially through the donation of needed books and learning materials.

**YOUTH LEADERSHIP EDUCATION**

*Adopted 2003; Amended 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs endorses programs that demonstrate the value of leadership education and development of our youth; and

WHEREAS, leadership programs offer leadership development; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourages all clubs and members to be active in leadership development by providing sponsorship, personal involvement with planning and fundraising; and further

RESOLVED, that the members contact their local schools to encourage students' participation in such programs.

**YOUTH LITERACY**

*Adopted 2003; Reviewed 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, high school graduates need to be literate and adequately educated in the skills needed to enter the job force; and

WHEREAS, companies are seeking more qualified workers in the State of Alabama; therefore

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges the State Board of Education to emphasize the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic without excluding the arts; and further

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Legislature be encouraged to provide funding for smaller classes so students may receive individual attention, and that the Legislature also appropriate monies to provide additional teachers and classrooms to accommodate those smaller class populations; and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourages the State Board of Education to direct school systems to provide a variety of teaching methods and curriculum so students can succeed in learning; and further

RESOLVED, that students not be allowed to graduate from high schools until they can master a basic education as evidenced by passing the Alabama high school exit exams.

**YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

*Adopted 2020*

WHEREAS, Youth ages 14-26 who are not in school or working represent untapped potential; and

WHEREAS, Career and technical education (CTE), has the potential to improve students' post- school employment outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that workers who are unemployed as youth ages 14-26 earn lower wages for many years following period of unemployment due to forgone work experience and missed opportunities to develop skills; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs, urges the United States Congress to pass the Education and Workforce Innovation Act that would:

- Support Programs that offer comprehensive services, including vocational training and guidance to both in-school and out-of-school youth to encourage schooling and employment;

- Request federal and state governments to promote programs that provide direct skills and job training for young people to enter and advance in high-growth, emerging and in-demand industries;

- Support programs that create partnerships among local school districts, community colleges, apprentice programs and joint-labor management training programs;

- Urge employment services, community organizations, media, schools and businesses to provide local listings of age appropriate, safe, and healthful work opportunities for young people, especially during vacation periods.

## ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### ALABAMA STATE PARKS

*Adopted 2015; Amended 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, The GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs supports the 22 state parks in Alabama; and

WHEREAS, parks provide recreational and camping facilities for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Alabama parks are located in a variety of geographical locations throughout the state that make them accessible to all citizens of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, these parks enhance our state's economy by attracting visitors from outside and within the state keeping our Alabama citizens in Alabama for travel, entertainment, and tourism as well as providing jobs for many of our citizens; and

WHEREAS, these parks preserve our natural resources, habitats, and environment and provide educational opportunities for our students; therefore

RESOLVED, the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs encourages Alabama officials to appropriate funds to keep state parks open and maintained.

## ENERGY SOURCES

*Adopted February 16, 1985; Amended April 1996; Reaffirmed* 2003; *Reviewed 2017; Amended 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, secure and reliable sources of energy are vital to Alabama business and industry and of critical importance to Alabama's overall economic well-being; and

WHEREAS, almost all nations today are working to replace non-renewable energy sources with renewable energy sources; and

WHEREAS, the 30-year offshore drilling record of the U.S. petroleum industry proves that offshore oil and natural gas cannot be produced without harm to the coastal and marine environments; therefore

RESOLVED, the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges that energy/technology businesses work to provide cost-effective, renewable energy resources that will make our country energy independent, and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs supports legislation to fund and expand renewable energy sources such as solar and wind, including a higher national renewable energy standard and decreasing, and ultimately eliminating, consumption of non-renewable energy fuels.

## HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

*Adopted 1985; Reaffirmed* 2003; *Reviewed 2017; Amended 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, hazardous waste materials are a by-product of our industrialized society, modern agriculture, medical and research activities, and must be disposed of safely; and

WHEREAS, technology and procedures are available to provide safe handling and disposal of these wastes; and

WHEREAS, The Resource, Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976, and subsequent amendments in the Act's 1984 reauthorization, establish responsible programs for the environmentally sound treatment and disposal of hazardous waste;

WHEREAS, the Town of Emelle, Alabama is known as the "Home of the nation's largest hazardous waste landfill". In 1977, the 300-acre landfill was established. In 1995, it had grown to 2700 acres. The Emelle, Alabama landfill is used as the worst example of hazardous waste disposal site management and their "experiences have helped the wider environmental justice movement in the United States to fight the emergence of similar injustices in other parts of the country," (-Environmental Justice Atlas)

WHEREAS, the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs supports timely implementation, fully funding and fully staffing of this Act; and further

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges funding for safe and responsible clean-up of toxic waste sites and reclamation of contamination sites; and

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to educate themselves and their communities about hazardous waste disposal.

## MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

*Adopted April 1996; Reaffirmed 2003; Amended 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the wise management and care of our environment affects the health of citizens; and

WHEREAS, solid waste disposal is threatened because of lack of space; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges the promotion and practice of composting leaves, grass clippings and raw vegetation to be used as nutritive materials for beautification projects within local areas; and

RESOLVED, that local governmental entities be encouraged to provide facilities and equipment necessary to extend the life of landfills and produce materials needed for community beautification; and further

RESOLVED, that local clubs of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs contact and work with their local governing bodies to assist in implementing this plan.

## RECYCLING AND LANDFILLS

*Adopted 1992; Reaffirmed 2003; Reaffirmed 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, community landfills have been filled or are filling to capacity throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, regulations governing new landfills have been expensive and extensive to meet; and

WHEREAS, suitable land to meet the new guidelines for landfills is not readily available anymore; and

WHEREAS, the rural communities are finding it virtually impossible to dispose of the huge amount of waste that continues to multiply in our "disposable" way of life; and

WHEREAS, the disposable waste such as certain paper, aluminum, plastics and glass deteriorate at an extremely slow rate; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs participate in, encourage and develop recycling projects and programs in their communities and continue to promote recycling by educating the public on the advantage of recycling, encouraging printed identification of products made from recycled materials, and encouraging consumer demand for products made from recycled materials.

## WATER SUPPLY

*Adopted 1982; Reaffirmed 2003; Reviewed 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, the water supply on our planet is a constant factor, and projected use of the water by the expanding population could exhaust the available supply within the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the wise use of our present water supply augmented by the restoration of usability of presently polluted water would provide a supply of usable water that would sustain the earth's population in the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, state and local governments alone can no longer provide solutions for the ever-increasing water supply problems; and

WHEREAS, no single federal water policy could be applicable to all parts of the nation where there are vast differences of water supply and water problems; and

WHEREAS, an immediate program of action is necessary if we are to forestall the impending water crisis and yet not work an undue hardship on any segment of society; therefore

RESOLVED, that the GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to enact legislation at the national level that will provide a program of action to:

1. Expand the existing supply of usable water by improved methods of desalinization of sea water, protection of ground water, and by research in methods of inducing precipitation;

2. Prohibit any further pollution of the nation's streams and domestic water supply;

3. Assist persons, governmental units, and industrial enterprises now polluting the nation's streams and domestic water supplies in making such changes as necessary to bring an end to water pollution and to provide federal financial assistance in the form of tax incentives or by other means of "cost-sharing" so that the cost may be spread over the society which benefits; and further

RESOLVED, that the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges Congress to complete an overall program designed to:

1. Rehabilitate valuable watershed lands which have been denuded and are endangering life and property;

2. Insure proper and adequate management for all our public watershed lands so that no additional acreage will be ruined and thus contribute to reservoir sedimentation and disastrous floods;

3. Provide a strong national water policy for all parts of our nation and all segments of our society; and

4. Provide a vehicle, which would abate international water pollution.

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

### CHILDREN AT HIGH RISK

*Adopted April 1996; Reaffirmed 2003; Reviewed 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, unmarried teenage girls with their babies are at high risk to live their lives in poverty; and

WHEREAS, poverty hurts children in many ways including poor nutrition, substandard housing or homelessness, and few resources for learning except for school; and

WHEREAS, more than 100,000 children in Alabama live in neighborhoods, urban and rural, with high levels of poverty, female-headed families, high school dropouts, drug use, unemployment and reliance on welfare; therefore

RESOLVED, that members of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs work with governmental and health agencies to help develop and implement educational programs that individuals may learn to value

life and the importance of protecting one's body from the physical and emotional abuse caused by neglect and drugs; and further

RESOLVED, that members of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs volunteer to prepare and present programs allowing young people who live in severe conditions the opportunity to know that other ways of life are possible and that receiving an education is fundamental to success in life.

**DISABILITIES**

*Adopted* 2003; *Reaffirmed 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, a disability is a physical, sensory, mental or cognitive impairment that limits one's ability to participate in one or more common daily activities and every person has the right to participate to the best of one's abilities in all phases of life activities; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the community to support said "disabled" persons to experience life to the fullest of one's abilities; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to be committed to improving the health of babies and preventing birth defects; and

WHEREAS, it is important to support programs to promote independence for persons with disabilities; therefore

RESOLVED, that the members of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs work with the government and health agencies to assist in expanding the participation of people with disabilities in national and community life activities; and further

RESOLVED, that the members of the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs volunteer to promote the independence of persons with disabilities by developing leadership skills, setting goals, raising funds, and spreading awareness as a link to a vital nationwide movement to improve the quality of life and the health of future generations.

**FAMILY CAREGIVERS**

*Adopted 2018; Amended 2019*

WHEREAS, meeting the demands of multiple family responsibilities, as well as the added pressures of employment and outside commitments, creates great stress for family caregivers; and

WHEREAS, there is a possible financial advantage and opportunity for more individualized care options in community-based programs; therefore

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support legislation providing for flexible employment policies and programs to aid family caregivers, and legislation to formulate licensing and training requirements for home health care workers, and further

RESOLVED, that GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to work with appropriate agencies in their communities to support the development and maintenance of creative community-based support services for those with a terminal or debilitating illness, the elderly, people with disabilities, and family caregivers. These support services can be offered through agencies such

as adult day care centers, respite care, transportation services, nutrition services, home health and homemaker services, congregate or alternative housing arrangements and support groups for family caregivers.

## WOMEN'S FINANCIAL INFORMATION

*Adopted* 2003; *Amended 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, statistics support that there is a significant gap between the wages paid to men and those paid to women; therefore the amount of women's retirement benefits are lower in pensions and social security payments; and

WHEREAS, women often leave their jobs to care for family members, therefore they may not qualify for a pension or may accumulate fewer retirement benefits; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of single-parent families are headed by women due to separation, divorce or widowhood, and

WHEREAS, women are frequently uninformed about their status or how to go about finding the information needed to apply for benefits; therefore

RESOLVED, that the members of GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs take an active role in the financial future of women by providing information to educate women on the importance of retirement planning and by working with government and financial organizations to help ensure that women are informed and aware of the resources available to provide adequate retirement needs.

## WOMEN'S HEALTH

*Adopted* 2003; *Amended 2017; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, statistics show women live longer than men, and they often neglect signs and symptoms of illness and disease; and

WHEREAS, women are living longer and should take a more active role in their medical treatment to ensure a high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, maintaining a healthy lifestyle is essential to good health; therefore

RESOLVED, that Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs members work with government, health agencies, and communities to expand awareness of prevalent medical problems affecting women today, and to enable women to adopt the knowledge to take charge of their own physical health and quality of life; and further

RESOLVED, that Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs members volunteer to educate all women about prevention, detection and treatment of diseases and how to make informed decisions concerning their own health and well-being.

**WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES**

*Adopted 2018; Reaffirmed 2019*

WHEREAS, research suggests that women with disabilities are more likely to suffer domestic violence and sexual assault and abuse that lasts longer and is more intense; and

WHEREAS, women and girls with intellectual and mental disabilities are at a particular risk of sexual abuse. They are less likely to report cases of violence or abuse. They are not considered to be a reliable witness or juror; and

WHEREAS, women with disabilities do not access health care with the same frequency as

men; and

WHEREAS, girls with disabilities are less likely to attend school; and

WHEREAS, women with disabilities often experience unequal hiring, promotion, access to training; therefore

RESOLVED, that members of GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs provide educational material to their members about women with disabilities; and further

RESOLVED, that members of GFWC Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs develop relationships with disabled women's groups and disabled women leaders of their communities

**CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE WORKPLACE**

*Adopted* 2020

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its member clubs to support all efforts and legislation to protect persons from employment discrimination based on a person's race, national origin, religion, gender identity, ethnicity or sexual preference.

**TOLERANCE**

*Adopted* 2020

WHEREAS, The Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs believes that the democratic form of government is endangered by the unchecked growth of prejudice, violence, racism, terrorism, and intolerance; and

WHEREAS, The cardinal principles of our democratic institutions demand respect for

the rights of others; and

WHEREAS, Problems resulting from intolerance have a national and international impact; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) promotes peace, non-violence and understanding, and has an established "Day for Tolerance", which is observed annually on November 16; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs supports the observation and promotion of the UNESCO Day for Tolerance and urges its member clubs to accept responsibility for fostering tolerance, justice and religious freedom in clubs and communities.

**REDUCING OBESITY IN YOUTH**

*Adopted* 2020

WHEREAS, Research has shown that early childhood is an important time for developing dietary and physical activity behaviors that support health and may help prevent obesity, and childhood obesity has more than quadrupled in children and tripled in adolescents in the past 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Infants as young as 7 months exposed to healthy foods are more likely to prefer those foods and develop healthy eating habits; and

WHEREAS, Healthy eating can improve a child's learning ability, higher academic performance, and mental, social and physical well-being; and

WHEREAS, The financial implications of childhood obesity pose a financial burden to the economy and healthcare system, therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges the United States Congress to pass the Reducing Obesity in Youth Act, which would:

• Establish a program that will influence practices, policies, and environments in early care and education settings to support healthy eating, physical activity, and screen time reduction for children ages birth through 5; and

• Enhance the training and knowledge of early care and education providers on strategies for promoting healthy eating (including early feeding best practices), physical activity, and screen time reduction in early care and education settings.

**MENTAL HEALTH AWARNESS**

*Adopted 2024*

WHEREAS, The National Institute of Mental Health reports:

- One in five U.S. adults experience mental illness annually;
- One in twenty U.S. adults experience serious mental illness each year;

- One in six U.S. youth aged six through seventeen will experience a mental health disorder annually;
- Suicide is the second leading cause of death among people aged ten to fourteen, the third leading cause of death among those aged fifteen to twenty-four, and the twelfth leading cause of death in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, there are significant barriers to gaining access to affordable mental health resources with recent trends in mental health treatment:

- While the percentage of U.S. adults receiving mental health, treatment increased from 2019 to 2021, 42% of U.S. adults with a diagnosable condition reported that they could not afford to access the treatment they needed;
- Ten percent of youth covered by private insurance did not have access to mental health services in 2022;
- A recent report underscores the shortage of mental health professionals citing there is only one provider available for every 350 individuals in need of services; and

WHEREAS, while mental illness makes it challenging for patients to live everyday lives, the challenges ripple out through families, communities, and the world:

- The rate of unemployment is higher among U.S. adults who have mental illness;
- High school students with significant symptoms of depression are more than twice as likely to drop out;
- More than 21% of the people experiencing homelessness in the U.S. have a serious mental health condition;
- Almost 20% of U.S. Veterans experienced a mental illness in 2020;
- Across the U.S. economy, serious mental health illness causes $193 billion in lost earning annually;
- Depression and anxiety disorders cost the global economy $1 trillion in lost productivity each year;
- Depression is the leading cause of disability worldwide; and

WHEREAS, people with mental illness are overrepresented in our nation's jails and prisons:

- Two in five people who are incarcerated have a history of mental illness;
- Seventy percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have a diagnosable mental health condition;
- Fifty-five percent of the veterans held in local jails have a mental illness;
- Less than half of people with a mental health illness receive mental health treatment while incarcerated; and

WHEREAS, the COVID pandemic had a significant impact on mental health and the importance of increasing access to timely and effective care for those who need it:

- One in five U.S. adults report that the pandemic had a significant negative impact on their mental health;
- Among those who received mental health services, millions experienced delays or cancellations in appointments, experienced delays in getting prescriptions;
- Millions were unable to access needed care
- Among U.S. adolescents ages twelve to seventeen, there has been a 31% increase in mental health-related emergency department visits; therefore

RESOLVED, That the Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs urges its members to support:

- Public awareness campaigns to end the stigma associated with mental health;
- Public awareness campaigns on available mental health services in the community;
- Advocacy for improved mental health care and its funding;
- Efforts to provide resources for patients and families.