

## **Resolution of the Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies Student Council Calling for Congressional Action on Climate Change**

WHEREAS, anthropogenic climate change is one of the greatest challenges facing humanity;

WHEREAS, climate change is neither a partisan nor a political issue;

WHEREAS, climate change is inherently threatening our own educational environment with the rising sea levels and increasing temperatures;

WHEREAS, climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts *all* people and disproportionately impacts *all* young people and *all* future generations, it disproportionately affects people of color and people in poverty, thereby exacerbating existing inequities and limiting equality of opportunity which is a foundational aspiration for modern America;

WHEREAS, since December of 2017 more than 40 school boards and 17 student councils in more than five states have passed non-partisan resolutions building political will for national climate action to protect students;

WHEREAS, in 2015, the California PTA declared that climate change was a “children’s issue”;

WHEREAS, we support the 21 youth plaintiffs who are currently arguing for a constitutional right for a livable climate in *Juliana v. U.S.*;

WHEREAS, we have the technology and the economic strength for bold climate action, all that we need is public and political will to meet the challenge of restoring our climate;

WHEREAS, we have faith in the American people, our democratic processes, in our elders, and in our collective ability to lead the world out of this climate crisis;

WHEREAS, in these divided times, all Americans from all political parties, religions, ethnicities, and rural, urban, suburban communities and from all corners of the nation could unify behind the cause of restoring America’s leadership on climate change action, for the good of our generation, the youth and for all subsequent generations;

WHEREAS, time is of the essence and the actions we take in the next few years will have repercussions,

both positive and negative for generations to come.

**NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT**

1. We declare climate change a generational justice, human rights, and equity issue.
2. We call on Congress to act quickly and boldly on climate change to protect current and future students. We, as students, endorse equitable and effective state and national policies such as revenue-neutral carbon fee-and-dividend, 100% clean energy transition plans, green infrastructure and investments in forestry and regenerative agriculture. We call on all adults, voters, leaders, and institutions to join us in advocating for and implementing these policies rapidly in order to restore the climate.
3. We call on all youth, all adults, and all institutions to advocate for and to take climate action in order to protect our generation and future generations. We encourage other student councils, school district boards, county boards of education, state boards of education, the board of the California State Board of Education, and the board of the California Association of School Boards to all pass climate action resolutions similar to ours, calling on Congress to enact swift, fair, and effective climate policies in order to protect current and future students.
4. We encourage all individuals, all leaders, and all institutions to engage in non-partisan advocacy and outreach among peers and similar institutions as well as organizing bodies such as county, state, and national boards or associations. We expect adults, especially adult leaders of youth-focused institutions to advocate strongly for fast, effective national climate policy. It is important for all institutions to sound the call on climate change as a generational justice issue.
5. We respectfully encourage staff members, supporters, colleagues, and constituents of currently climate disengaged Congresspeople to engage in honest, direct dialogue with the Member to explain why their silence or inaction on climate change harms young Americans and future generations, eroding national moral authority and national identity.

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**

1. We encourage our own students, teachers, school board members, and superintendent to engage with local, state, and federal jurisdictions and elected leaders to engage in non-partisan advocacy for science-based policies to restore the climate.

2. We direct our student council secretary to transmit official copies of this resolution to Schools for Climate Action campaign, the local Citizens' Climate Lobby chapter, our county, district and state school boards, LACES school administration, Friends of LACES, United Teachers of Los Angeles, all local district west schools of LAUSD, the LAUSD superintendent, all California members of Congress, the Climate Solutions Caucus, the California School Board Association (CSBA), the California County Boards of Education (CCBE) and the National School Board Association (NSBA).

Votes

Ayes: 47 Noes: 0 Abstain: 0

J.B.

Signed on behalf of the LACES Student Body:

Mary Pearl President

John Buck Vice-President

Dillon Bar Secretary

JB

JB

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V.J.R.

DL

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V.S.

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TC

On 4/24/19

Witnessed by: Hz BL (faculty advisor)