

RESOLUTION 4: CLIMATE CHANGE

(Proposed by the Resolutions Committee)

WHEREAS: We believe America is a great nation and has a proud heritage of addressing humanity's most pressing problems; and

WHEREAS: We believe it is important to advocate for climate action leading to climate restoration to curtail one of the greatest threats facing communities throughout the world; and

WHEREAS: We believe that climate change is not a partisan issue and that local, state, and national policies should be guided by the best available science; and

WHEREAS: There is a broad scientific consensus among climate scientists that human activities, contributing to increases in greenhouse gas emissions, are the dominant cause of climate change;

WHEREAS: Children represent a particularly vulnerable group because greenhouse gases emitted into the atmosphere will continue to accumulate over the coming decades and will profoundly impact our current students throughout their lives, as well as the lives of future generations; and

WHEREAS: MASC recognizes climate change as a generational justice and human rights issue; and

WHEREAS: Climate change is a social justice and equity issue. While climate change impacts all people and disproportionately impacts all young people and 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: The global impact, urgency, and magnitude of the challenge of addressing climate change calls for leadership in all sectors of society, all institutions and all elected leaders; and

WHEREAS: National and state elected leaders working in a bipartisan fashion to enact carbon pricing policies could quickly and substantially reduce human-made greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS: MASC recognizes and understands the significant negative impact that rapid and ongoing climate change has on America's schools, students, and their communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: MASC calls on Congress to take swift and effective action on climate change to protect current and future students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: MASC advocates for funding for school infrastructure need and emergency funding for disaster relief caused by natural catastrophes and extreme weather events.

RATIONALE: This resolution represents a call by advocates for action on climate change at the federal level and for state funding to anticipate the climatological implications and the emergencies they might cause.

An amendment was proposed to add the following language (in red) to the resolution:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: MASC calls on Congress **and the Massachusetts legislature** to take swift and effective action on climate change to protect current and future students. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: MASC advocates for **state and federal funding for** school infrastructure need and emergency funding for disaster relief caused by natural catastrophes and extreme weather events.

The resolution, as amended, was adopted.