

Resolution Calling For the Reunification of Independent Democratic Factions and Official Democratic Caucuses In All Levels of Government

A Resolution to encourage the reunification of Democratic caucuses and factions within state legislatures and localities in the United States. These rogue factions deny Democrats the majority in these legislative bodies and prevent progressive legislation from being passed by these bodies.

Whereas, the Democratic Party has suffered losses in recent years regarding the number of Democratic-controlled state legislatures, governorships, both houses of the United States Congress, and the Presidency; and

Whereas, the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States has forced Democrats to look to other levels of government to protect them from potentially harsh federal policies and austere cuts in federal funding; and

Whereas, certain states have elected Democratic numerical majorities to state legislatures and localities, which are denied their right to be in the majority because small groups of elected Democrats have either formed a separate caucus from the main Democratic caucus that forms a “majority coalition” with the Republican Party or a Democrat chooses to caucus directly with the Republican Party; and

Whereas, examples of these arrangements are, but are not limited to, the eight-member Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) in the New York State Senate, another Democrat who caucuses with the GOP in the New York State Senate, the Majority Coalition Caucus which currently includes one self-identified Independent Democrat in the Washington State Senate, and other local agreements that resemble these associations; and

Whereas, these agreements between a small number of elected Democrats, who have been elected to be a part of a Democratic caucus that should hold the rightful majority in the chamber to which they were elected, and Republicans, who should rightfully be in the minority; and

Whereas, these arrangements have prevented proposed pieces of progressive legislation from coming to the floor, like potential New York State legislation, including, but not limited to, promoting women’s reproductive health, comprehensive protections for transgender individuals,

the state-version of the DREAM Act, sanctuary state legislation, and single-payer health care, and Washington State legislation including, but not limited to, expanding reproductive health services, and expansion of gun safety legislation; and

Whereas, these bills have been blocked in exchange for powerful positions in the legislative body, powerful committee assignments, and stipends which only serve to improve the lives and opportunities of those who agree to leave the caucus that they were elected to serve in and not the people who elected them.

Whereas, this does not preclude or discourage Democrats from collaboration, co-sponsorship, or co-authorship of legislative priorities in effort to find bipartisan solutions;

Therefore Be It Resolved, that Democrats who form “independent” Democratic caucuses, which are separate from the main Democratic caucus in legislatures and form power sharing agreements with Republicans, and Democrats who choose to directly caucus with the Republican caucus, are injurious to Democratic caucus in legislatures, the Young Democrats of America, the people that elected them, the young people who support them and elect them, and the enactment of progressive legislation; and,

Be It Further Resolved, that the Young Democrats of America calls on individual members of “independent” Democratic caucuses, the caucus as a whole, and any other individual Democrats in states and localities where they together with the primary Democratic caucus would constitute a majority of the chamber who then choose to caucus with any other caucus than that of the main Democratic caucus are called to withdraw from their coalitions with Republicans and rejoin the Democratic caucus to which they rightfully belong, and resolve differences that they have with the leaders of the Democratic caucus to which they were rightfully elected.

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