



Adopted April 29, 2014

Resolution Income Inequality

Whereas economic inequality is, at long last, commanding attention from policymakers, the media and everyday citizens; and

Whereas there is growing recognition that America needs an inclusive economy that works for everyone—not just for those at the top; and

Whereas after incomes at all levels declined as a result of the Great Recession, lopsided income growth has reemerged since the recovery began in 2009, with the top 1 percent capturing an alarming share of economic growth; and

Whereas IRS data make clear that rising inequality and increases in income for the top 1 percent affect every state; and

Whereas between 1979 and 2007, the top 1 percent of taxpayers in all states captured an increasing share of income; and

Whereas from 2009 to 2011, in the wake of the Great Recession, income for the top 1 percent in most states once again grew faster than the income of the bottom 99 percent; and

Whereas increased inequality may eventually reduce intergenerational income mobility; and

Whereas attacks on the rights of workers to collectively bargain is a direct attack on the middle class and helps fuel further income inequality in this country; and

Whereas in America the children of affluent parents grow up to be affluent, and the children of the poor remain poor (Corak 2012); and

Whereas rising inequality cannot be tolerated in a country that values so dearly the ideal that all people should have opportunity to succeed, regardless of the circumstances of their birth.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans opposes any reduction in tax rates for the wealthiest Americans and tax reform that is revenue neutral that only serves to reduce taxes for corporations; and

Be it further resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans demands that Wall Street pay its fair share in taxes, stop robbing pension funds and blaming retired workers' pensions for the deficit, stop scapegoating retired workers for a fragile economy and start opposing cuts to worker and retiree pensions and health benefits; and

Be it further resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans opposes tax reform proposals that tax the health benefits of middle-class Americans because taxing health benefits would lead to decreased coverage and shift more of the costs on to workers and retirees; and

Be it finally resolved that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports collective bargaining as a way to improve workers' wages and build a middle class and calls on corporations to halt their attacks on workers' collective bargaining rights.