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*Adopted* April 29, 2014  
*Amended* November 13, 2018

## Resolution Income Inequality

**Whereas** income inequality has been growing markedly, by every major statistical measure, for some 30 years.

**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** the gap between worker and CEO pay was eight times larger in 2016 than in 1980, and wages in the United States, after taking inflation into account, have been stagnating for more than three decades; and

**Whereas** 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** America's top 10 percent now average more than nine times as much income as the bottom 90 percent, those in the top 1 percent stunningly average over 40 times more income than the bottom 90 percent, and the top 0.1 percent are taking in over 198 times the income of the bottom 90 percent; and

**Whereas** the recently enacted Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 only exacerbates the situation by providing the top 1 percent with 83% of the tax cuts, while the bottom 99% gets 17% of the cuts; 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;

**Whereas** the Alliance for Retired Americans opposed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

**Therefore, be it resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans opposes any reduction in tax rates for the wealthiest Americans and corporations; and



**Be it further resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans supports the repeal of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans demands that Wall Street pay its fair share in taxes; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans call upon our elected leaders to stop blaming retired workers' pensions for the deficit, stop scapegoating retired workers for a fragile economy and support improved pensions and health benefits for workers and retirees; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Alliance for Retired Americans opposes tax reform proposals that taxes 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, including increasing the minimum wage to a living wage, and build a middle class and calls on corporations to halt their attacks on workers' collective bargaining rights.