



**RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AND
PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP FOR RECOGNIZING THE
IMPORTANCE OF HBCUs IN THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**

WHEREAS, The availability of higher education equity was denied to black people in this nation prior to the Civil War, as well as beyond;

WHEREAS, This nation's unaddressed disparities for its citizens were championed by the Republican Party, leading to the sentinel Civil Rights Act of 1866, which led to the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States;

WHEREAS, Many efforts to assist the educational pursuits of blacks were best facilitated by special purpose institutions often incubated from the Freedmen's Bureau (known as The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands in 1865) and members of the Republican Party, forming a nidus inspired by the beginning of Cheney State College in 1837 (now known as Cheney University), founded in Pennsylvania through the generous bequest of Richard Humphrey, a Quaker from the Virgin Islands;

WHEREAS, Though many of the 121 special purpose institutions in the 1930s operated as separated, they were not excluding students based on race or color;

WHEREAS, There are over 100 special purpose institutions still operating today;

WHEREAS, Due vigilance has not always been exercised when dispensing federal assistance to these institutions as compared to others, which has been shown by the lack of assistance provided to over one million black veterans from World War II, as well as the disproportionately low amount of federal dollars allocated to these special purpose institutions for research and student aid allocations;

WHEREAS, The lack of federal assistance has left many of these institutions with financial burdens from serving the socioeconomically deprived, forcing these valued institutions to absorb nearly a billion dollars of debt in their efforts to absorb the impact of educational segregation;

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WHEREAS, These institutions formed to facilitate the educational aspirations of black students prior to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 became collectively known as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs);

WHEREAS, There has been a bipartisan tradition of supporting HBCUs;

WHEREAS, In 1981, President Ronald W. Reagan, under Executive Order 12320, established the White House Initiative on HBCUs, which expanded the previous program and set into motion a government-wide effort to strengthen our nation's HBCUs;

WHEREAS, In 1989, President George H.W. Bush signed Executive Order 12677, establishing a Presidential Advisory Board on HBCUs to advise the president and the secretary of education on methods, programs, and strategies to strengthen these valued institutions;

WHEREAS, In 1992 President George H.W. Bush signed into law a reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965, which established the HBCU Capital Financing Program to provide HBCUs with access to low-cost financing;

WHEREAS, In 2002, George W. Bush signed Executive Order 13256, transferring the White House Initiative on HBCUs to the Office of the Secretary within the U.S. Department of Education, to help strengthen and advance HBCUs;

WHEREAS, In 2017, President Trump's Executive Order 13779 established the President's Board of Advisors on HBCUs, whose purpose is to advise the President on strengthening the state of these institutions, including the establishment of new programs and initiatives to improve the competitiveness and fiscal security of HBCUs;

WHEREAS, In 2018, under President Trump's leadership, the Department of Education granted full loan forgiveness totaling \$322 million to four HBCUs devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita;

WHEREAS, In 2019, President Trump signed the FUTURE Act, which provided more federal funding than ever before to HBCUs – totaling \$850 million over the next ten years;

WHEREAS, In 2019, President Trump proclaimed the creation of National HBCUs Week and September 9th to be National HBCU Colors Day; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, under President Trump's leadership, the Department of Justice declared the ban on federal funding for faith based HBCUs to be unconstitutional; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Republican National Committee (RNC) commends President Trump for his commitment to ensuring that HBCUs continue to thrive and prosper for generations to come;

RESOLVED, That the RNC recognizes the continued importance of preserving HBCUs, which represent our country's pursuit of civil rights, equality, and higher education; and

Proposed Substitute

RESOLVED, That the RNC recognizes the continued challenges faced by HBCUs and, true to the party's longstanding tradition and commitment, will continue to be a steadfast supporter of the institutions.