



Eliminating Deserts by Making Resources Available to African-American Communities

Committee: Social and Economic Justice

Resolution: GEA-21-02

1. **WHEREAS** African Americans have experienced inferior access to critical resources
2. like high-quality healthcare, education, food, and credit,
3. **WHEREAS** data mapping has shown conclusively that food, healthcare, and credit
4. deserts remain common in areas populated by African Americans;
5. **WHEREAS** there can be no real social justice without the equitable distribution of these
6. critical resources;
7. **WHEREAS**, NOBEL Women has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the
8. Equitable Growth Fund to help identify and address health care, food, and credit deserts;
9. **WHEREAS**, one cannot eliminate deserts by further restricting access to water; nobody
10. chooses to drink bad water where good water is plentiful;
11. **WHEREAS**, the challenge faced by minority and (Low to Moderate Income) LMI
12. communities is not the availability of unhealthy fast food as much as it is the lack of
13. access to healthy alternatives; it is not the availability of bad health care as much as it is
14. the lack of access to good healthcare, and it is not the availability of bad credit as much
15. as it is the lack of access to sources of beneficial Credit;
16. **WHEREAS**, there is an urgent need to enact a national plan to address the availability
17. and equitable distribution of critical resources in all fifty states and territories;
18. **BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that model legislation be developed to promote
19. social justice, as was introduced this year in Illinois, but amended to avoid further \
20. restricting access to credit, working instead to widen and promote the availability of
21. beneficial sources of credit.
22. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women work with the Equitable Growth
23. Fund to identify and address health care, food, and credit deserts;
24. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the result of this comprehensive study will be the

25. development of model legislation that uses data to identify and address these deserts;
26. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NOBEL Women will encourage every state
27. legislature to adopt the model legislation, which shall promote a data-centric approach to
28. address social justice issues;
29. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NOBEL Women urges the development and
30. implementation of state- and community-based programs to support “Desert
31. Improvement” initiatives, to bring healthier options into underserved communities across
32. America; and
33. **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the \
34. President of the United States, the Vice President of the United States, members of the
35. United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate, and
36. other federal and state government officials as appropriate.

**Introduced by The Honorable Karen Camper
Tennessee General Assembly**