A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN PARTY STATE CONVENTION

DEMANDING IMPLEMENTATION DELAY AND REWRITE OF ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) U.S. HISTORY CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

Passed by the State Executive Committee – August 16, 2014

WHEREAS, approximately 5,000 South Carolina students take the College Board's Advanced Placement U.S. History (APUSH) course each year; and

WHEREAS, the APUSH course has traditionally been designed to present a balanced view of American history and to prepare students for college-level history courses; and

WHEREAS, the College Board has recently released a new Framework for the APUSH course; and

WHERES, the new U.S. History Framework document appears to exclude a large number of South Carolina U.S. History and Constitution (USHC) Standards and includes a number of revisionist standards not found in USHC; and

WHEREAS, the new U.S. History Framework document, therefore, is not aligned with the South Carolina –mandated – USHC standards as traditionally committed to by the College Board; and

WHEREAS, the new APUSH Framework reflects a radically revisionist view of American history that emphasizes negative aspects of our nation's history while omitting or minimizing positive aspects; and

WHEREAS, the Framework includes little or no discussion of the Founding Fathers, the principles of the Declaration of Independence, the religious influences on our nation's history, and many other critical topics that have always been part of the APUSH course; and

WHEREAS, the Framework excludes discussion of the U. S. military (no battles, commanders, or heroes) and omits many other individuals, groups, and events that greatly shaped our nation's history (for example, Albert Einstein, Jonas Salk, George Washington Carver, Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Tuskegee Airmen, the Holocaust); and

WHEREAS, the Framework presents a biased and inaccurate view of many important events in American history, including the motivations and actions of 17th-19th-century settlers, American involvement in World War II, and the development of and victory in the Cold War; and

WHEREAS, the Framework describes its detailed requirements as "required knowledge" for South Carolina students, and the College Board admits that the APUSH examination will not test information outside this "required knowledge"; and

WHEREAS, to prepare their students for the APUSH examination, South Carolina APUSH teachers will have to teach the APUSH "required knowledge" rather than the USHC standards; and

WHEREAS, the Framework will have the effect of usurping the South Carolina-mandated U.S. History and Constitution Standards;

THEREFORE, the South Carolina Republican Party State Convention demands that the South Carolina Department of Education require the College Board to delay the implementation of the new APUSH Framework for at least a year and that during this time a committee be convened to draft an APUSH Framework that is consistent both with the APUSH course's traditional mission and with the U.S. History and Constitution Standards mandated by the State of South Carolina; and absent such a redrafting, that an alternative to the College Board APUSH program be sought which provides benefits to students, universities and parents as heretofore provided by past APUSH courses and tests.

FURTHERMORE, the South Carolina Republican Party State Convention requests that the South Carolina Legislature investigate this matter.