

Virginia Young Democrats Teen Caucus Urging the Young Democrats of America to  
Amend the National Charter to Prohibit Age Discrimination

**Whereas** current provisions of the national charter of the Young Democrats of America leave a blank check for chartered units to discriminate against high school students. Several chartered units openly discriminate against high schoolers by prohibiting high schoolers from seeking statewide office or by outright banning high schoolers from becoming members.

**Whereas** discrimination on the basis of age is completely repugnant to the principles of the Democratic Party, and even more so repugnant to the principles of the Young Democrats of America.

**Whereas** the preamble of the Young Democrats of America charter states the goals of the organization shall be "to promote the acquisition of political power by young people, to promote the policies and practices which are consistent with the advancement of democracy and legislation and policies that are important to young people," but high schoolers are too often discriminated against by our fellow Young Democrats based solely on our age.

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Virginia Young Democrats Teen Caucus urges the Young Democrats of America National Committee to make the following amendments to the national charter to protect the rights of high schoolers:**

1. Section 205(a) Regular Member. Any person who has not yet reached the age of thirty-six (36) may be accorded regular membership in this organization by and through a chartered unit. Each chartered unit shall have the primary responsibility for setting requirements for membership in such unit. **However, no person who has reached the age of thirteen (13) and meets all other membership requirements shall be excluded from membership based on their age.** If a person selected or elected to a position on the National Committee or any Standing or Select Committee is not a regular member, the person holding that position shall be entitled to participate in meetings of such committee, but shall not be permitted to cast a vote in such committee.
2. SECTION 1115 Requirements; Restrictions. No law or rule of any chartered unit may conflict with this Charter and any provision which does so conflict shall be null and void. Every chartered unit shall be required to hold a general convention not less than biennially. The National Committee shall have authority to revoke the Charter of any unit for violation of any law or rule of the Democratic Party at any level. Restrictions on voting commonly referred to as "unit rule" are prohibited. Chartered units shall not discriminate

on the grounds of race, religion, national origin, economic status, disability, gender, **age**, or sexual orientation.

3. SECTION 1150 Procedural Guarantees. The Young Democrats of America shall implement the following guarantees to members:
4. Section 1150(a) Open Meetings. All public meetings and official functions at all levels of the Young Democrats of America shall be open to all members of the Young Democrats of America regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (**if between the ages of thirteen (13) and thirty-six (36) except** as provided in Section 205(a)), color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, disability, or philosophical persuasion.
5. Section 1150(b) Membership Test. No test for membership in, nor any oath of loyalty to, the Young Democrats of America shall be required or used which has the effect of requiring prospective or current members of the Young Democrats of America to acquiesce in, condone or support discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (**if between the ages of thirteen (13) and thirty-six (36) except** as provided in Section 205(a)), color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status or disability. **No chartered unit shall explicitly discriminate in the selection of state leadership.**
6. Section 1150(d) Registration. The Young Democrats of America, on all levels, shall support the broadest possible registration without discrimination on the grounds of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age (**if between the ages of thirteen (13) and thirty-six (36) except** as provided in Section 205(a)), color, creed, national origin, religion, ethnic identity, economic status, or disability.