

## Resolution to Address Ageism

**Whereas:** Ageism is a form of prejudice and discrimination based upon a person's age.

**Whereas:** Ageism refers to how society thinks, feels, and acts towards others based on age. It can impact one's health. The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

**Whereas:** Ageism also impacts a person's housing, transportation, and employment opportunities and affects a person's finances, food and medication security and longevity.

**Whereas:** Ageism can manifest itself in governmental actions, at the institutional or interpersonal level or be self-directed.

**Whereas:** Ageism can start in childhood and be reinforced over time; Ageism can be implicit or explicit depending on one's level of awareness; and is prevalent, deeply ingrained and more socially accepted than other forms of bias.

**Whereas:** Ageism can change how we view ourselves, can set one generation against another and can devalue or limit society's ability to benefit from what older people can contribute, such as knowledge passed on to younger generations.

**Whereas:** Ageism conveys meaning through language and can fuel misconceptions by words such as elderly, old, senior, or aged which can elicit stereotypes of older people as being frail and/or dependent and are often used in a disparaging way.

**Whereas:** Ageism was highlighted as a world-wide problem in the *Global Report on Ageism* published by The World Health Organization in 2021.

**Whereas:** Ageism, defined in The Decade of Healthy Ageing: 2021–2030, and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2020, is changing how we think, feel and act towards age and aging, regarding ourselves and others. Combating ageism is one of the four action areas prioritized in that report.

**Whereas:** Ageism was exposed as a deep and long-standing malady especially during COVID-19, and clearly affected people of all ages, in different and traumatic ways.

**Therefore, be it resolved that the Michigan Democratic Party:**

- 1.) Support the spirit of the World Health Organization's *Global Report on Ageism* and the United Nations Decade of Healthy Aging by enacting Laws and drafting Policies prohibiting age discrimination, with adequate legal effectiveness and scope to protect all persons regardless of age.
- 2.) Support the repeal or appropriately modify existing laws and policies that permit age discrimination.
- 3.) Support the implementation of cost-effective formal and informal educational programs and activities to address Ageism.
- 4.) Support socioeconomic research to gain a better understanding of Ageism and how it can be effectively curtailed.

**And be it further resolved that the Michigan Democratic Party go on record supporting:**

- 1.) A national and international movement to improve the narrative around age and aging.
- 2.) Use of neutral language when referring to older individuals and groups including such terms as older person, older people, and older populations.