RESOLUTION URGING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TO END DISCRIMINATION BASED UPON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AT ALL LEVELS

WHEREAS, since its founding over a hundred years ago, the Boy Scouts of America has striven to instill in boys a love, appreciation, and respect for the outdoors; inspired boys to help other people and their communities; taught boys numerous skills ranging from first aid to seamanship that simultaneously increased boys' self-esteem and benefited our communities, our state, and our nation; and prepared boys to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes and to be responsible, participating citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party of Orange County opposes and condemns all discrimination on the basis of, among other personal characteristics, sexual orientation; and

WHEREAS, the policy of the Boy Scouts of America to bar from membership or leadership positions otherwise qualified individuals solely on the basis of their sexual orientation causes harm to innumerable boys who, regardless of their hard work and merits, are denied the opportunity to participate in any way in the Boy Scouts of America; and denies leadership opportunities to adults, including the parents of Scouts, and stigmatizes both boys and adults on the basis of their sexual orientation; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Orange County congratulates and commends the Boy Scouts of America for rejecting prejudice and bigotry, and adopting a youth membership policy that states that no youth may be denied membership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of Orange County condemns and opposes all discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, and calls upon the Boy Scouts of America to reject prejudice and bigotry in its adult leadership policy as well as its youth membership policy, and adopt a policy that states that no one may be denied participation or leadership in the Boy Scouts of America on the basis of sexual orientation.