

**Resolution of the Progressive Caucus of the NYSDC
Calling Upon The Members of the New York State Senate's
"Independent Democratic Conference"
to Rejoin the Democratic Conference**

Whereas the Independent Democratic Conference ("IDC") is a group of registered Democrats who won their State Senate seats by running as Democrats on the Democratic line;

And whereas the IDC's members stated at the conference's founding that it would be a better vehicle than the New York State Senate Democratic Conference to advance and successfully pass progressive legislation in the New York State Senate;

And whereas the 2013-14 New York State Senate Rules, as agreed upon by the IDC and Republican Conference known in combination as the New York State Majority Conference ("Majority Conference"), provided for legislation to reach the Senate floor for debate only when both Senate Co-Presidents gave their consent, ensuring that the Republican leadership determined whether legislation pertaining to key progressive causes such as campaign finance reform or reproductive rights received a vote;

And whereas under this arrangement, many progressive issues not only failed to receive a vote, they also failed to receive a public debate upon the merits of the legislation, including the previously referenced public financing and the full, ten-point Women's Equality Act, which was proposed by Governor Andrew Cuomo and passed by the New York State Assembly;

And whereas the overwhelming proportion of legislation that reached the floor under this arrangement was sponsored by members of the Majority Coalition, while bills introduced by members of the Democratic Conference usually did not receive even a committee vote, leaving all Democratic members unable to fully legislate on behalf of their constituents' needs, and leaving those Democratic members in marginal districts particularly stymied in their attempts to conduct the people's business;

And whereas the IDC has therefore served as a deterrent rather than a catalyst for passing progressive legislation in the New York State Senate, and has in fact only further strengthened the power of Republicans within that body, as evidenced by the outcome of the 2014 elections that resulted in a true Republican majority;

And whereas in the aftermath of the 2014 elections, the IDC acceded to a new coalition agreement in which their members now have little to no ability to influence the Republican Conference's administration of the chamber, meaning that progressive and reform-minded legislation remains essentially dead;

And whereas members of the IDC and Senate Democratic Conference each stake claim to progressive leadership and a commitment to government reform and can surely united around these principles;

And whereas a united Democratic Party – and united Senate Democratic Conference - will surely accomplish more for New York State than one which is splintered;

Therefore be it resolved, that the Independent Democratic Conference has been injurious to the Senate's Democratic Conference, the New York State Democratic Committee, the residents of this state, and to the enactment of real progressive legislation;

And, be it further resolved, that the New York State Democratic Committee calls upon the individual members of the IDC and the IDC as a whole to rejoin the Democratic Conference where they rightfully belong, and seek to resolve their differences within the Democratic Conference to which, in fact, their constituents actually elected them.