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**Resolution of the Progressive Caucus of the NYSDC
Congratulating Newly Elected State Senator Todd Kaminsky
And
Calling upon the Members of the “Independent Democratic Conference”
To Rejoin the Senate Democratic Conference**

NYSDC Meeting May 2016

Whereas the Progressive Caucus of the NYSDC congratulates newly elected State Senator Todd Kaminsky on his well-deserved victory; and

Whereas Senator Kaminsky’s successful “campaign message of ethics reforms, government accountability and responsible leadership clearly resonated with voters,” as noted by Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; and

Whereas this important victory could finally break the gridlock in New York government and create the opportunity for passage of important legislation that affects the well-being of all New Yorkers; and

Whereas this most recent victory will pave the way for future Democratic victories in the State Senate, and should enable actual negotiation and compromise leading to such important legislation rather than the intellectually and ethically stunted legislation that is permitted out of the Senate by the Republican leadership; and

Whereas this political paralysis can only be changed by the return to the Senate Democratic Conference of the so-called 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 their 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 history has not borne out this hopeful prognosis, and what has instead occurred is that the IDC has provided the Republican Party with the majority in the Senate, and thereby enabled the Republican leadership to block key progressive proposals such as Real Ethics Reform or protection of reproductive rights; and

Whereas under this arrangement, many progressive issues not only failed to receive a vote, they have also failed to receive even a public debate upon the merits of the legislation, including Real Ethics Reform, effectively silencing Democrats and progressives within the Senate; and



Whereas the overwhelming proportion of legislation that reaches the floor under this arrangement are sponsored by members of the Majority Coalition, some of whom do not even believe in such documented factual phenomena as Global Climate Change, and who therefore refuse to pass even the most rudimentary of environmental protection legislation; and

Whereas the IDC has thus served as a deterrent rather than a catalyst for passing progressive legislation in the Senate; and

Whereas members of the IDC and Senate Democratic Conference each stake claim to progressive leadership and a commitment to Real Ethics 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, the New York Democratic State Committee calls upon the members of the IDC to look into their hearts and souls, to remember the reasons they first went into politics, and consider what they want their true political legacy to be; 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 display genuine leadership at this critical juncture in New York history by passing desperately needed Real Ethics Reform and other vital progressive measures.

_____ Name (Print)

_____ Signature

_____ A.D.