

New York State Democratic Committee Resolution
Calling Upon the State Party Leadership
to Ensure an Independent Investigation into
Allegations of Sexual Harassment
Against State Senator Jeff Klein

January 31, 2018

Whereas Senator Jeff Klein, the head of the Independent Democratic Conference (“IDC”) has been accused of sexual harassment by a former female staffer; and

Whereas, the NYSDC and its elected officials are committed to a zero tolerance policy regarding sexual harassment of any kind, but especially by Democratic officials in the workplace; and

Whereas in the current era of #MeToo and #TimesUp, we are learning about the pervasive and pernicious levels of sexual assault and harassment; and

Whereas, we recognize that sexual harassment not only adversely affects individual women, but also systemically prevents women from advancing in the workplace; and

Whereas, Governor Cuomo has renewed his commitment that all workplaces in this State are fair, transparent and equitable environments; and

Whereas, the founding resolution of the NYSDC Progressive Caucus in September 2012 was the successful passage by the full body of the NYSDC of its resolution calling upon then-Assemblymember Vito Lopez to resign as a member of NYSDC because he had violated the Assembly Sexual Harassment/Retaliation policy; and

Whereas, the NYSDC officially voted at that time: “RESOLVED, That the New York State Democratic Committee (NYSDC) seeks to send the strongest possible message condemning his conduct, and declaring that New York State will have zero tolerance for sexual harassment in our legislature, our party and the halls of government;” and

Whereas Vito Lopez due to his position as an Assemblymember was investigated at that time by The State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE); and

Whereas, the Senate leadership has already stated that it will not investigate the recent allegations against Senator Jeff Klein; and

Whereas Albany maintains a reputation as a place where sexual misconduct is rife and women in their roles as interns, staffers, advocates, and lobbyists often feel pressured and sexually harassed by men; and

Whereas, the NYSDC refuses to countenance a double standard of behavior that does not take allegations of sexual harassment against powerful members of our own party as seriously as we take allegations of sexual harassment against Republican officials;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the NYSDC calls upon our Democratic leadership to ensure that JCOPE conducts a thorough and impartial investigation into the allegations of sexual misconduct by Senator Klein; and be it further

RESOLVED that such an investigation begins as soon as possible.