**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF**[**VOICESFROMABROAD.ORG**](http://voicesfromabroad.org/)**,** a DA messaging platform for engaging members in Congressional outreach in support of DA issues advocacy initiatives

Sponsored by:  Carmelan Polce (DA Australia; DA Taxation Task Force Chair)

Co-sponsored by: Joe Smallhoover (DA France), Rebecca Lammers (DA UK), Angela Fobbs (DA Germany); Anna marie Mattson (DA France) Onelica Andrade (DABe)

Also supported by: Chip Seward (DA France) DeeDee Gierow (DA Sweden) Tilly Gaillard (DA France)

Whereas Democrats Abroad has greatly expanded its work as an advocate for Americans abroad, promoting reforms related to issues affecting Americans abroad and of importance to Democrats Abroad; and

Whereas DA advocacy initiatives routinely feature outreach to U.S. federal and state lawmakers and regulators; and

Whereas state of the art issues advocacy programs provide activists with platforms that facilitate messaging to elected representatives by: identifying the activist’s representative(s); providing sample message language; and sending the message to the activist’s representatives(s) via their official website, campaign website or social media pages; and

Whereas DA issues advocacy coordinators would benefit from data indicating which elected representatives are receiving messages from DA issues activists, helping them to target representatives for further or follow-up outreach; and

Whereas DA issues advocacy coordinators would benefit from data identifying, with GDPR compliance, campaign supporters, helping them to target activists for further or follow-up communication; and

Whereas DA’s Taxation Task Force has learned from at least 10 years of committed advocacy in support of tax reforms to eliminate double taxation, remove barriers to banking, saving and investing, and simplify filing from abroad that reform will happen when enough Americans abroad reach out to their elected representatives and demand it; and

Whereas DA advocacy teams with any area of focus could make use of the platform; and

Whereas votes from abroad reach politicians only once every 2 years, but voices from abroad can reach elected representatives – or candidates for office - continuously and with focus; and

Whereas DA is blessed with volunteers who can set up and maintain a VoicesFromAbroad.org messaging platform, but there will be origination and on-going maintenance costs that will consume organizational funds; and

Whereas DA can access “white label” systems (“off the shelf” web-creation products with functions already in place and ready to be customized) that facilitate the development of VoicesFromAbroad.org without the need to start from first principles; and

Whereas the success of the Democratic Party in driving legislative wins is critical to the fate of the nation and the success of the Party in maintaining the support of the U.S. electorate; and

Whereas the substantial growth of DA caucus and other issues advocacy teams has created the need for some overarching member engagement infrastructure and congressional outreach architecture in order to efficiently facilitate member participation in our campaigns as well as sensibly coordinate the campaign activities of the issues advocacy teams;

Therefore, be it resolved, that Democrats Abroad supports the establishment of VoicesFromAbroad.org, a messaging tool for DA advocacy teams to engage activists to communicate with those holding elected office or running for elected office about law or regulatory reforms;

Be it further resolved, that Democrats Abroad shall allocate funds in 2021 towards the cost of establishing VoicesFromAbroad.org and recruit volunteers to build and maintain it.