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**Defending and advancing critical public policies**

- 1 WHEREAS national public policy under the Social Security Act and later amendments, labor and tax law anti-discrimination statutes, lay the foundation of social and economic justice, equal opportunity, and the advance of public and private attention to the needs of families, children, and an aging population;
- 2 WHEREAS all generations of citizens gain as a result of the coverage and programs of Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act;
- 3 WHEREAS the role of the Federal Government has been central to the development of the current network of programs and service supports for citizens in need; and
- 4 WHEREAS all generations have a profound stake in the management of national wealth through tax policy, reduction of national credit debt, and the efficient operation of government;

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:***

- 5 Permit and encourage older citizens to share equitably the cost of government and contribute to meet the needs of their communities;
- 6 Resist attempts to undermine the rights of citizens regarding retirement income, adequate health coverage, the protections critical to low-income families and children, and freedom from job and other discriminations;
- 7 Prevent movements to privatize and means-test the Social Security system and to undercut its financial base;
- 8 Defeat attempts to make deep cuts in Medicare and Medicaid outlays or to make reductions in programs and services, such as nutritional, social service, employment assistance, housing, income support, and volunteer opportunities;
- 9 Prevent changes in the Federal tax code that would exacerbate the growing disparity in income and wealth among American households;
- 10 Create a universal national health insurance system with broad-based funding and strong cost controls;
- 11 Encourage citizens of this nation, young and old, to advance and defend the quality of American life through cooperation and solidarity.