RESOLUTION

HARRIS COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUPPORTS THE ORANGE COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY CENSURING SPEAKER DADE PHELAN

WHEREAS, on July 13, 2023, the Orange County Republican Party Executive Committee met and voted on a Resolution to Censure Speaker Dade Phelan, Texas House Rep. District 21. The vote was 14 yeas, and only 6 nays; therefore, a number greater than two-thirds of the votes cast.

WHEREAS, State Representative Dade Phelan, as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, has abused the power of his office and his authority as Speaker by taking more than three actions during this current biennium that are either in opposition to the core principles of the Republican Party of Texas, in opposition to the Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities, or both; and

WHEREAS, on February 8, 2023, in disregard of Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority Number Five (No. 5), "Ban Democrat Chairs," Speaker Phelan appointed nine (9) Texas Democratic Party state representative to committee chairmanship position within the Texas House of Representatives; the Democrats assigned to committee chairs included: Oscar Longoria - Business and Industry, Able Herrero - Corrections, Victoria Neave Criado - County Affairs, Joseph Moody - Criminal Jurisprudence, Harold V. Dutton - Juvenile Justice & Family Issues, Tracy King - Natural Resources, R. D. "Bobby" Guerra - Resolutions Calendars, Terry Canales - Transportation, and Senfronia Thompson - Select Committee on Youth Health and Safety; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, Republican Primary Ballot Proposition Number 6 voter results show that a vast majority of Republican voters (81.24%) statewide, and a higher percentage of Harris County Republican voters, demanded that the Republican-controlled Texas Legislature end the practice of awarding committee chairmanships to Democrats; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, a number of prominent Harris County Republicans, including members of the Harris County Executive Committee, elected officials, and concerned voters sent letters and/or emails to State Representative Dade Phelan urging him, "to prohibit and refrain from appointing any Democrat House members as chair of any House committee; and

WHEREAS, in House Speaker Phelan's conscious decision to appoint multiple Democrat chairs

to important House committees in direct opposition to **both the** Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priorities and **the** express **position of well over** 80% of the most recent statewide **Texas** Republican Party **Primary election voters, the consequence of Phelan's appointments thereby also places Speaker Phelan in** violation of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, **eighth** and **ninth** core **principles** of **the RPT 2022 Platform**, and

WHEREAS, Speaker Phelan appointed pro-abortion Democrat State Representative Joseph Moody (Texas Right to Life, Pro-Life score of 0) to chair the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee and assigned HB 2709, "The Abolish Abortion in Texas Act," which fulfilled Republican Party of Texas Legislative Priority Number Six (No. 6) "Abolish Abortion in Texas," to the House Criminal

Jurisprudence Committee chaired **by Representative** Moody, thereby ensuring the Bill would die in committee, and never receive a hearing; and

WHEREAS, on February 28, 2023, Speaker Phelan promoted HR 85, a resolution honoring the religious liberty-intolerant LGBT (LGBTQQIP2SAA) community, by allowing the resolution to be referred to the House Resolution Calendars Committee in violation of the first and sixth core principles of the Republican Party of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on May 9, 2023 Speaker Phelan allowed HB 202 die by sustaining a spurious point of order, in violation of RPT Legislative Priority Number Two (No. 2): "Secure the Border and Protect Texans." HB 20 would have created a Border Protection Unit under the control of the State of Texas to "arrest, apprehend, or detain persons crossing the Texas-Mexico border unlawfully," and invoke Section 10, Article 1, of the United States Constitution to authorize this unit to return aliens to Mexico who have been observed crossing the border unlawfully and to use force to repel, arrest, and detain known transnational cartel operatives in the border region, among other duties. HB 20 was identified as a priority by the Speaker himself, but at his sole discretion, he accepted a point of order raised by Democrat Representative on a matter of opinion regarding the caption of the Bill, and thus, preventing the Bill from ever being voted on in the Texas House.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Harris County Republican Party Executive Committee supports the necessary action taken by the Orange County Republican Party Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Harris County, a quorum being present, hereby applaud the demand by the Orange County Republican Party Executive Committee to seek the censure of Speaker Dade Phalen, a public office holder representing all of Harris County as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives; and be it further

RESOLVED, we request the state Republican executive committee and the delegates to the next state convention of the Republican Party of Texas concur with the Orange County Republican Party Executive Committee's resolution of censure and hereby implore the Republican Party of Texas to initiate the process triggered by the censure vote to impose upon Rep. Dade Phelan any and all remedies provided in the Rules the Republican Party of Texas; and be it further

RESOLVED, that an official copy of this resolution be prepared and transmitted to the Chairman of the Republican Party of Texas, the Governor of Texas, the Lieutenant Governor of Texas, the House Speaker of Texas, and the SREC Representatives of Senatorial Districts 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, & 18. Last, a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the various Texas news organizations.

Adopted this **18th** day of September, 2023, **Harris** County, **Texas**.

Respectfully **Submitted**,

Thomas A. Bazan

Harris County Precinct 661, Chairman
713-466-4477