Family Caregiver Platform Project (FCPP)

caregivercorps.org

Cohorts and Templates: How to Classify Your State

We have identified language templates for typical platform and/or resolution submissions that will be available on our website in coming weeks. The FCPP national team has identified the primary pathways by which engaged citizens with a passion for caregiving issues can submit language for platform adoption. These processes create myriad opportunities for volunteers and advocates working with national partners to join forces in creating awareness and change.

Three Basic Questions To Classify Your Party Goals:

1. Does the state party adopt a party platform?

If yes, amend the state party platform. The language of the platform itself will determine which category you are in:

Simple: A few sentences or one paragraph.

Detailed: May be an entire section of the platform with detailed policy recommendations.

2. Does the state party adopt resolutions?

If yes, try to adopt a state party resolution.

3. Do you want a State Legislative resolution?

Will require bipartisan support.

Best if driven by Legislators.

May be affected by lobbying rules in the state.

Outside the scope of the FCPP.

Four categories of states

Party Platform Only

- Introduce a party platform amendment. Format may be either *simple* or *detailed* depending on the platform itself.

Party Resolution Only

- Introduce a party resolution.

Both State Party Platform and State Party Resolution

- Introduce both a party platform amendment and a party resolution.

No State Party Platform and No State Party Resolutions

- A State Legislative resolution could be moved by Legislators.
- Outside the scope of the FCPP.

Language Templates

Party Platform Amendment	•**Simple** format may be just a few sentences or one paragraph •**Detailed** format may outline more specific policy statements
Party Resolution	•"Whereas" / "Therefore" format •Typically requires detailed citations for "Whereas" policy statements
Legislative Resolution	•Same format as a Party Resolution •Adopted by the State Legislature on a bipartisan basis •May constitute lobbying •Outside the scope of the FCPP

Submission Procedures Vary By Party

Regardless of the process you use, you will get the best results by identifying a specific person within the party who is interested and supportive of your cause. That person can carry your ideas into the party process for you.

If the party accepts public input:

1. Made by written submission as directed by the party Platform Committee. Even if they don't have a published protocol for making a written submission, if you contact the party they may explain a way to do it.
2. By public comment at party platform meetings. If you make a public presentation, try to submit a written copy of the proposal at the same time.
3. By a web form. If the party only accept input via a web form, the details of what you submit are determined by the web form. In such cases we also recommend that you identify a contact point within the party who can accept a written submission.

If the party does not accept public input:

4. Some parties do not accept public submissions. In such cases, proposals must be made by a official or party committee member. For cases of this type you need to identify a supportive party official and get that person to advance your proposal.