

## ZONTA CLUB OF TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH A MINIMUM AGE FOR OBTAINING A MARRIAGE LICENSE

**Whereas**, Zonta International supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and in particular, supports Goal No. 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; and

**Whereas**, a target for Sustainable Development Goal 5 is to eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage; and

**Whereas**, as an organization empowering woman through service and advocacy, Zonta International has joined the "Girls Not Brides" partnership to end child marriage and help girls realize their full potential; and

**Whereas**, Zonta International supports the work of the United Nations Population Fund's work to delay early marriage and early pregnancy in Niger; and

**Whereas**; girls under the age of 18 who marry are likely to experience reduced opportunities for educational achievement and ill-health effects resulting from pregnancy at a young age, and

**Whereas**, the marriage of girls under the age of 18 may be associated with abuse; and

**Whereas**, 1,828 marriages licenses were issued in the last five years in Florida to a couple in which at least one party was a minor; and

**Whereas**, one license was issued in which one party was 13 years old; and

**Whereas**, the authority to issue a marriage license in Florida is vested solely win a county court judge or clerk of the circuit court; and

**Whereas**, if both applicants for a marriage license are 16 or 17 years old, they are entitled to such if both parents or a guardian provide consent; and

**Whereas**, a minor may receive a marriage license without parental consent in limited circumstances that depend on the discretion of the county judge, including if the female has a child or swears she is expecting a child;

**Whereas**, Florida statutes do not set a minimum age requirement for a marriage license when the applicants have a child or are expecting a child; and

**Whereas**, the Florida legislature is considering legislation that prohibits a county court judge or clerk of the circuit court from issuing a marriage license to any person under the age of 18;

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the Zonta Club of Tallahassee supports legislation that a person must be at least 18 years of age to marry or receive a marriage license in Florida.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_