A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE URGENT NEED TO FUND

REHABILITATION SERVICES FOR BLIND MISSOURIANS

Whereas, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind provides a range of services for blind children and their families because we know that early intervention is key in the development of skillsets that will lead to success in adulthood and that the information and referral services provided are important when guiding parents through the web of resources that are available; And

Whereas, Rehabilitation Services for the Blind works with blind men and women continuing in high school and extending through their golden years; and

Whereas, in every age group the responsibility of Rehabilitation Services for the Blind is to help a person become or remain as independent as possible; and

Whereas, services provided may include learning to travel independently with a long white cane, to cook and clean, to read and write, to use magnification when sites will allow, providing a powerful technology that produces Braille and spoken output on computers and other high-tech devices, providing equipment to keep blind people employed, and offering a wide variety of services to senior citizens who wish to remain in their homes rather than transitioning into assisted living or nursing facilities; and

Whereas, a necessary ingredient in a successful rehabilitation case is getting blind people the services they need when they need them, rather than letting them languish in helplessness and to live in isolation, eventually coming to believe that their view of blindness as a tragedy rather than a nuisance or an inconvenience is reality; And

Whereas, so well-known is this phenomena in rehabilitation that it is commonly observed that rehabilitation delayed is rehabilitation denied; and

Whereas, the coronavirus pandemic has placed tremendous strains on our state's budget, necessitating cuts in every program; now,

therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Missouri in convention assembled this sixth day of June, 2020, in virtual convention assembled that we urge the governor and members of the Missouri General Assembly to keep uppermost in your minds the urgency of seeing that blind people get the training, technology, and confidence that will allow for maximum independence, knowing that this leads not only to a higher quality of life but to lesser expense by the state of Missouri when our blind citizens of working age are employed and are senior citizens remain in their homes as long as their physical and psychological states will allow.