Resolution 2020-1

RESOLUTION REGARDING DMV STATE ID CARD PRACTICES

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) issues state photo identification cards after reviewing an applicant’s documentation to show, in their words, “proof of legal presence”; and

WHEREAS, an applicant affirms the accuracy of information provided by affixing a handwritten signature in the space provided; and

WHEREAS, a signature is required to be on file at the DMV in order to request an absentee ballot; and

WHEREAS, blind applicants are often told that a signature is not required, but are allowed to sign if they insist; and

WHEREAS, when the blind applicant receives his or her ID card in the mail, the signature block on the back of the card is obscured by the words, “Cannot sign” or “unable to sign”; and

WHEREAS, this demeaning and archaic language results in embarrassing situations when the card holder is asked to show ID for signature verification; and

WHEREAS, there is no reason why a blind applicant cannot sign in the designated space if given proper direction and guidance on where to sign, and to assume that he/she cannot sign is a misconception and negative stereotype; and

WHEREAS, state issued non-driver ID cards cannot be renewed on line, even though a sighted driver can renew his or her license via internet: NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia, on this First day of November, 2020, that this organization demand that the Virginia DMV remove its current archaic and demeaning signatory language and encourage the applicant to sign in the designated box by whatever means appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this organization demand that the DMV modify its online procedures governing renewal of state issued driver licenses to also include state -issued nondriver photo ID cards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia demand that the DMV take all steps necessary to abolish this discriminatory practice applied to blind Virginians.