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SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF RI DEMOCRATS TAKE UP STATE'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN ***Aggressive outreach planned as part of Delegate Selection Plan for 2016 Nat'l Convention***

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – On this day when the U.S. Supreme Court took up arguments on Gay Marriage and Congressman David N. Cicilline (D-RI) took up a resolution on protecting rights for our LGBTQ community, Rhode Islanders closer to home were looking at how to more fully engage under-represented Democrats within the state's delegate selection process.

Under the timeline set by the national Democratic Party, all states must submit Affirmative Action Committee plans to its Rules & Bylaws Committee by May 4, 2015, in preparation for the 2016 National Democratic Convention. Rhode Island's Committee – chaired by state representative Marvin Abney – met today to review [the plan](#), which has been posted on the [state party's website](#) for more than 30 days and approved it.

“This plan suggests ways in which we can actively involve area Democrats of all backgrounds within the delegate selection process and within our Party,” said Representative Abney. “Our goal is to be sure we reach out to every interested Democratic voter and that there is fair representation of all.”

The Committee and Party will use such tools as educational workshops, a speakers' bureau, media relations, outreach with community leaders and a special guide to voters, to encourage Democratic voters to get involved.

“Rhode Island's Democratic Party is proud of its diversity, and we want to be sure every interested Democrat has a chance to be part of this exciting, quadrennial national convention,” Chairman McNamara said. “It is the place where we will collectively choose who will serve in

this nation's highest elected offices." The Convention is set for the week of July 25, in Philadelphia, and will follow months of preparation.

The Committee is made up of members of the state's Democratic women, minority, Hispanic, disabled and LGBTQ communities; the Plan details specific ways in which under-represented communities can become informed of the process and get involved as a delegate.

Members include: Rep. Anastasia Williams, Anthony DeRose, Councilwoman Carlene Fonseca, Rep. Carolos Tobon, David Allard, Rep. Deborah Ruggiero, Senator Donna Nesselbush, Hon. Frank Ferri, Rep. Grace Diaz, Senator Harold Metts, Mayor James Diossa, U.S. Cong. James Langevin, Rep. Jean Phillipe-Barros, James Vincent, Mayor Jorge Elorza, Senator Juan Pichardo, Kate Monteiro, Rep. Marvin Abney (Chair,) Rep. Ray Hull, Councilwoman Sabina Matos, Rep. Shelby Maldonado, and Councilwoman Stephanie Gonzalez.

The State Party Affirmative Action Committees must submit their Delegate Selection Plans to the DNC's Rules and Bylaws Committee for approval by May 4, 2015, and begin implementing them by September 15 of this year.

For more information, visit <http://ridemocrats.org/cms-assets/documents/203647-348605.2016-delegate-plan.pdf>

*** COVERAGE INVITED***

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