

Signing the Democratic Party Credo is both an empowering and humbling experience. It is empowering because it highlights my individual responsibility to support and promote the values that make our democracy fair and free. It is humbling because I recognize that the Credo's principles can be too easily subverted when lawmakers and those in control of government do not abide by the same values. Each of the principles of the credo resonates with my personal beliefs and what I believe makes a democratic society strong: the concepts of human rights, dignity, and equality.

The Credo recognizes the importance of a society where education, nutrition, medical care, housing, safe streets, and a healthy environment are possible for all citizens. These basic human rights are the bedrock of a civilized society, but yet the number of citizens who are hungry, homeless, sick, undereducated, and vulnerable continues to grow as programs that benefit and reduce the risk of these preventable circumstances are cut in favor of benefitting only the wealthiest segment of society. Recently, members of the republican-controlled congress, with the support of the republican president, attempted to repeal the Affordable Care Act, which ensures healthcare coverage for citizens at an affordable cost. The republican solution was to replace it with an Act that would result in unaffordable healthcare, which would leave millions of people uninsured. The tragedy of that Act's passage would inevitably result in untreated illness and death, all to benefit the wealthiest Americans with a tax cut. Through demonstrations, town hall meetings, media coverage, and the voices of the democratic members of congress and some dissenting republicans, the replacement bill failed miserably and could not obtain the votes for passage. This victory underscores the importance of the Democratic Party Credo's principles to support and promote a government as a force for good and a source of hope. I proudly signed the Credo and I am going to bring copies of it to the next meeting of the Douglas High School Young Democrats meeting as a guidepost for our members.

## Democratic Women Essay - Aspen Kidd

As a young woman growing up in a accepting environment, I count myself lucky that I have the freedoms and opportunities that I do. However, our society is far from perfect. This is why I so wholeheartedly support the democratic credo that we should work to create a society “where the equal rights of women are guaranteed in the Constitution.” I’ve done many things to promote the aim of equality. Back in January, I participated in the local Women’s March, to demonstrate peacefully that we demand our rights in this day and age.

I’ve also jumped at every opportunity to represent women. Last year, for example, I volunteered as a mentor in the STEM Gems camp (STEM meaning science, technology, engineering, and mathematics), where older girls like myself, who have STEM backgrounds, work with elementary school-age girls to do tasks that get the girls interested in these fields. I did this not because I’m terribly passionate about STEM, but because women are vastly underrepresented in these forms of science. Hopefully the girls I mentored will be able to overcome the stereotypes surrounding STEM, and have the opportunity to become passionate about an area study that they had previously dismissed. Having it written plainly in the Constitution that the sexes are equal will help vastly in creating a society where we treat each other as such, and give us the assurance that our rights will remain protected, which is a fear many women have in these times.