

Declaration of Dependence National Child Labor Committee, 1913

Whereas, We, Children of America, are declared to have been born free and equal,
and

Whereas, We are yet in bondage in this land of the free; are forced to toil [*work*] the long day or the long night, with no control over the conditions of labor, as to the health or safety or hours or wages, and with no right to the rewards of our service, therefore be it

Resolved, I—That childhood is endowed [*given*] with certain inherent and inalienable [*natural*] rights, among which are freedom from toil for daily bread; the right to play and to dream; the right to the normal sleep of the night season; the right to an education, that we may have equality of opportunity for developing all that there is in us of mind and heart.

Resolved, II—That we declare ourselves to be helpless and dependent; that we are and of right ought to be dependent, and that we hereby present the appeal [*state the case*] of our helplessness that we may be protected in the enjoyment of the rights of childhood.

Resolved, III—That we demand the restoration [*return*] of our rights by the abolition of child labor in America.