**Resolution 2021-04:**

**Regarding Promoting Employment in Journalism for the blind and Visually Impaired in Ohio**

WHEREAS, the National Federation of the Blind cites the unemployment rate of blind and low vision individuals as 70%; and

WHEREAS, Blind and low vision people are underrepresented in the media industry; and

WHEREAS, they are routinely discouraged from entering journalism training programs and the media industry because of its barriers to employment; and

WHEREAS, blind and low vision journalists in Ohio and around the country have consistently demonstrated that they are fully capable of working as professional journalists; and

WHEREAS, Ohio has 360 newspapers, at least fifty-two full-power television stations, over 1,000 radio stations, and countless independent news websites and other news outlets and publications; and

WHEREAS, Ohio’s media outlets provide thousands of full-time journalism jobs and countless freelance journalism opportunities: now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio in Convention assembled this 6th day of November, 2021, that this organization call upon the Ohio News Media Association, Ohio Association of Newspapers, local chapters of the Society of Professional Journalists, Ohio Association of Broadcasters, the Ohio Broadcast Educational Media Commission, the Ohio Scholastic Media Association, all Ohio colleges and universities with journalism education programs, and all Ohio news media outlets to work with the National Federation of the Blind of Ohio to ensure that blind and low vision journalists and journalism students have equal access to journalism jobs and journalism education programs.