

Chapter 5

The United States Transhumanist Party and the Politics of Abundance



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The depredations of contemporary politics and the majority of our era's societal problems stem from the scarcity of material resources and time. However, numerous emerging technologies on the horizon promise to dramatically lift the present-day constraints of scarcity. The United States Transhumanist Party, in advocating the accelerated development of these technologies and seeking to influence public opinion to embrace them, is forging a new political paradigm rooted in abundance, rather than scarcity. This new approach is simultaneously more ambitious and more civil than the status quo. Here I illustrate the distinguishing features of the Transhumanist Party's mode of operation, achievements, and plans for the future.

5.1 Scarcity Versus Abundance

Today's politics are shaped by scarcity and competing special-interest groups. The animosity we observed in the 2016 United States elections is ultimately driven by a zero-sum mentality, where many believe that others must lose for them to win. Political partisans demonize one another, precipitating confrontations that can escalate to the point of violence. Firebrands on the "left" and on the "right" are eager to label any different perspective or original way of thinking – or even any refusal to take up the firebrand's particular causes, candidates, or verbal expressions – as a heresy that needs to be rooted out by screaming or by force. Media emerge to cater to and reinforce the filter-bubbles and echo-chambers that partisans of particular pre-conceived notions have constructed to insulate themselves from dissenting views. Pressure groups, representing concentrated economic interests, posture for public support and lobby for special financial favors – be they in the form of subsidies, preferential tax treatments, lucrative government contracts, or barriers to entry

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for new, smaller-scale, more enterprising competitors. Negative campaigning from established political parties predominates over the search for constructive policy solutions to vexing societal issues. To persuade undecided voters, cynical campaign strategists focus not on what *their* side would be able to improve or protect – but rather on how heinously unacceptable their *opponents* would be. From the outrageous cries that Hillary Clinton should be “locked up” over charges for which she had been formally exonerated, to unsubstantiated insinuations that Donald Trump was acting as the agent of a foreign power from whose demonization a vast network of special interests has benefited for decades, the 2016 United States Presidential election was the nadir of political discourse in recent U.S. history. Contemporaneously, the toxic dynamics of nationalist, populist, reactionary politics have engulfed much of Europe, with varying outcomes. In the lands where the Scientific Revolution and the Age of Enlightenment first arose in the 17th and 18th centuries, the zero-sum politics of today threaten to undo the momentous achievements that generations of past thinkers have painstakingly wrought.

The zero-sum mentality is an atavistic remnant of humankind’s evolutionary origins. Our remote hunter-gatherer ancestors were faced with harsh environmental conditions: there was only so much food and shelter available, with scant means to create more. Those who appropriated a larger portion of berries or caught game for themselves necessarily deprived their fellow tribespeople of these goods. Small tribes fought vigorously and mercilessly over territory and the meager spoils of unaltered nature. Tens of thousands of years later, while our technological capabilities and material resources have expanded dramatically, the evolution of the human mind has not kept pace. In spite of the massive expansion of productive capacity brought about by the industrial progress of the past three centuries, material scarcity remains palpable, and each of us perceives limits to what we can attain, enjoy, and achieve. As soon as our life circumstances brush up against the boundaries of present-day scarcity, the age-old demon of the zero-sum mentality resurfaces and pressures many humans to re-enact the colossally costly carnage of the hunter-gatherer struggle for resources. Today it takes great fortitude and erudition to resist this counterproductive way of thinking. Studying economics, history, and moral philosophy certainly helps achieve a recognition of the *positive-sum* potential all around us – the creation of value through transforming the raw stuff of nature and through collaboration and exchange with other sentient beings. However, the insights of the erudite few cannot by themselves hold back the roiling tides of contemporary politics, driven by the passions of the many, who remain by default in thrall to the zero-sum mentality. To depart from this suboptimal state, we need a fundamental transformation of the material constraints and incentives for action surrounding *all* of us – or at least the vast majority.

The philosophy of transhumanism offers just such a transformation. The name of this philosophy literally means to go *beyond* the human – in the sense of overcoming today’s fundamental constraints on the human condition: the constraints of material scarcity, disease, decay, death, and zero-sum conflict. The term “transhumanism” was first used in this sense by Julian Huxley in 1957.¹ During the

¹Huxley, Julian. “Transhumanism”. 1957. Available at <http://web.archive.org/web/20160625132722/http://www.transhumanism.org/index.php/WTA/more/huxley>

1990s, Max More and the Extropian movement outlined a systematic transhumanist philosophy.² Transhumanism is the continuation of the Enlightenment humanist project of using reason and science to improve the human condition – except that transhumanism recognizes the potential of existing and soon-to-be-developed technologies to remove from that condition certain limits which historically were considered to be immutable. As those limits are pushed ever outward, progress could accelerate with ever fewer obstacles in its way, and all problems would become solvable with the appropriate tools and effort. As the intellectual successor to Enlightenment humanism, transhumanism offers the greatest promise for preserving the civilizing Enlightenment project against the resurgence of the atavistic tribal mentalities that currently threaten to displace it.

Transhumanism promises a future of widespread abundance that overcomes today's major sources of scarcity – particularly the scarcity of time resulting from today's woefully short lifespans. Through the progress of biotechnology, nanotechnology, and computing, the next generation of medical treatments may not only cure today's most intractable diseases but also repair age-related damage to the body, setting back one's biological clock and enabling one to survive until the *next* generation of still-more-effective treatments – thereby achieving *longevity escape velocity*, where life expectancy increases faster than the passage of time. Improvements in artificial-intelligence (AI) algorithms could result in the creation of more effective *domain-specific* or *narrow* AI that could solve challenging engineering, scientific, and logistical problems, as well as artificial *general* intelligence that might, in a versatile and open-ended manner, develop solutions to problems in a variety of fields. Semi-autonomous, electric vehicles such as the Tesla Model S and Model 3 are already the safest ever developed and have saved many lives on the roadways.^{3,4} Given that the overwhelming majority of vehicle accidents are due to human error, the transition to fully autonomous vehicles would save tens of thousands of lives per year in the United States and millions of lives per year in the entire world.⁵ Advances in economical solar energy, safe nuclear power (for instance, through the thorium fuel cycle), geothermal power, and alternative fuels can bring forth an era of cheap, abundant energy with minimal negative externalities. Through virtual and augmented reality, human creativity could flourish with fewer material constraints. People could build prototypes, devise new amenities and luxuries, and meet one another in fully immersive virtual environments that reduce the need for stressful and potentially dangerous physical travel. By more widespread automation of production, humans would be freed from the burdens and dangers of manual labor,

²More, Max. "Transhumanism: Towards a Futurist Philosophy". 1990. Available at <https://web.archive.org/web/20051029125153/http://www.maxmore.com/transhum.htm>

³Lavrinc, Damon. "The Tesla Model S Is So Safe It Broke the Crash-Testing Gear". WIRED. August 20, 2013. Available at <https://www.wired.com/2013/08/tesla-model-s-crash-test/>

⁴Lambert, Fred. "Tesla Model 3 achieves lowest probability of injury of any vehicle ever tested by NHTSA". Electrek. October 7, 2018. Available at <https://electrek.co/2018/10/07/tesla-model-3-lowest-probability-of-injury-nhtsa/>

⁵National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. "Critical Reasons for Crashes Investigated in the National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey". February 2015. Available at <https://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov/Api/Public/ViewPublication/812115>

and every person would be able to focus the majority of time on non-repetitive creative contributions that would flow uniquely from each individual mind.

The confluence of these technological advances promises to massively improve both the length and the quality of life for everyone who chooses to take advantage of them. If these emerging technologies are allowed to actualize their full potential, we can all become immensely wealthier, healthier, and happier. As a beneficial side effect, people who are more prosperous, more comfortable, more fulfilled in their lives, are less likely to react with vicious hostility toward others. Even if the biological human mind remains in roughly its present form (though even this, given the promise of genetic engineering in the coming decades, is not a foregone conclusion), the pushing outward of the material constraints of life would greatly lower the probability that humans would revert to their primeval conflict-prone ways – since they would be far less likely to approach the scarcity-imposed boundaries which trigger zero-sum responses.

The United States Transhumanist Party explicitly seeks to achieve a world where the futuristic technologies of radical abundance become present-day realities for as many people as possible. Ultimately, we aim to transform politics into what it always should have been: a constructive focus on which policies are best for improving human well-being and solving the problems that confront us. Emerging technologies are capable of bringing such a constructive politics about during our (hopefully indefinitely prolonged) lifetimes. We recognize, however, that progress in any endeavor involving human beings is never inevitable. The technologies we advocate for are products of human effort and creativity. Just as certain societal and political environments – namely, the attitudes and institutions derived from the Age of Enlightenment – can catalyze the development of such technologies, so can certain other circumstances and policies derail or greatly retard progress. For the vast majority of human history, progress across generations and entire centuries was imperceptibly slow, and occasional cataclysms – barbarian invasions, plagues, cultural decay – led to active *retrogression* from which societies took additional centuries to recover. As such, the United States Transhumanist Party recognizes that we cannot rely on some imagined forward march of history. To achieve the world we desire, we need to actively create it and support others who share our goals.

5.2 The United States Transhumanist Party – Highlights of Achievements

The United States Transhumanist Party was founded by Zoltan Istvan on October 7, 2014. Istvan, who served as the Transhumanist Party’s first Chairman, was also its first Presidential candidate during the 2016 election. When announcing his campaign, Istvan outlined his objective to “Create a cultural mindset in America that embracing and producing radical technology and science is in the best interest of our nation and species” while also seeking to empower scientists to overcome aging and death within the next two decades and create global safeguards against potential

planet-wide perils.⁶ Istvan's campaign primarily focused on attracting unprecedented media exposure for the ideas of transhumanism. Due to restrictive and often cost-prohibitive state ballot-access laws, Istvan "chose to bypass the battle to get on state ballots and instead focus [on] using media to move the transhumanism movement ahead", noting that "the internet is making a run for the presidency a good way to get attention for a cause like transhumanism" and that his "main goal all along has been to tell the world that science and technological innovation [are] coming far more quickly than ever before, and as a nation, we must answer to [them] with practical and forward-thinking policies."⁷

Istvan's coffin-shaped Immortality Bus traversed the country in 2015, starkly reminding Americans of the unfortunate predicament of human mortality and the imperative to overcome it. In a culmination of the Immortality Bus tour, Istvan delivered his original version of the Transhumanist Bill of Rights to the steps of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. As part of Istvan's vision for the politics of the future, "the Transhumanist Bill of Rights seeks to declare that all Americans (and people of all nationalities, as well) in the 21st Century deserve a 'universal right' to live indefinitely and eliminate involuntary suffering through science and technology."⁸

Ultimately, Istvan came to the conclusion that contemporary constraints on alternative political parties in the United States have created a stultifying environment for those seeking to achieve genuine progress. In Istvan's view, "Politics and minor third parties are a great way to push burgeoning movements like transhumanism forward" but doing so in service of radically improving humankind's future requires a revolutionary approach: "the Transhumanist Party was a political vehicle mostly designed for a singular purpose: to create a social environment that facilitates expediently conquering human death using science and technology. Such a purpose is to aim for a near[-]total revolution in the human experience."⁹ Due to high barriers to entry into the conventional electoral process, Istvan saw the need to structure the Transhumanist Party not as an official entity registered with the Federal Election Commission, but rather as an information-spreading, awareness-raising activist organization whose primary goal is not to win elections or even appear on ballots, but rather to highlight the key issues that politicians and the general public will need to confront as humankind enters its next stage of technological advancement.

⁶Istvan, Zoltan. "Should a Transhumanist Run for President?" Huffington Post. October 8, 2014. Available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/zoltan-istvan/should-a-transhumanist-be_b_5949688.html

⁷Istvan, Zoltan. "What I Learned by Running for President." Motherboard. October 28, 2016. Available at https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/what-i-learned-by-running-for-president

⁸Istvan, Zoltan. "Immortality Bus Delivers Newly Created Transhumanist Bill of Rights to the US Capitol." Huffington Post. December 21, 2015. Available at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/zoltan-istvan/immortality-bus-delivers-_b_8849450.html

⁹Istvan, Zoltan. "Revolutionary Politics Are Necessary for Transhumanism to Succeed." Motherboard. November 3, 2016. Available at https://motherboard.vice.com/en_us/article/revolutionary-politics-are-necessary-for-transhumanism-to-succeed

After concluding his Presidential campaign, Istvan decided to relinquish his Chairman role and requested that I become the second Chairman in the history of the United States Transhumanist Party. On November 17, 2016, in his message formalizing the transfer of leadership, Istvan wrote that he “would like to see the party grow larger through more democratic measures and the impact of new leaders.”¹⁰ Under Istvan, the Transhumanist Party was primarily operated by means of Istvan’s direct, personal efforts and did not have an official membership. My tenure as Chairman takes place during a transitional period where the principal goals are to attract a membership representative of the perspectives within the transhumanist and life-extensionist movements and to gradually create structures that would transform the Transhumanist Party into a member-driven organization.

My first act as Chairman was opening the Transhumanist Party for members to join. By filling out a simple membership application form, an individual can take part in our deliberations and vote on the policy stances that the Transhumanist Party will take.¹¹ The only precondition for being eligible to vote in U.S. Transhumanist Party internal elections is the expression of agreement with the following three Core Ideals of the Transhumanist Party, which were drafted to be as inclusive as possible of perspectives which could be considered broadly transhumanist:

Ideal 1. The Transhumanist Party supports significant life extension achieved through the progress of science and technology.

Ideal 2. The Transhumanist Party supports a cultural, societal, and political atmosphere informed and animated by reason, science, and secular values.

Ideal 3. The Transhumanist Party supports efforts to use science, technology, and rational discourse to reduce and eliminate various existential risks to the human species.

In the spirit of a truly revolutionary and forward-thinking political entity, the United States Transhumanist Party prides itself on an unprecedented openness and cosmopolitanism in its membership criteria. To join the Transhumanist Party, a person is not required to be a citizen of the United States or eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Non-U.S. individuals are capable of attaining Allied Member status, which entitles them to vote in the *internal* elections of the U.S. Transhumanist Party. Furthermore, membership is not limited based on arbitrary criteria such as biological age or even the species of the member. Any individual capable of forming and expressing a political opinion is capable of joining, including children and teenagers who are able to hold views on political issues. Indeed, the United States Transhumanist Party Platform, in Article III, Section XXIII, of the U.S. Transhumanist Party Constitution, states:

The United States Transhumanist Party supports the rights of children to exercise liberty in proportion to their rational faculties and capacity for autonomous judgment. In particular,

¹⁰Istvan, Zoltan. Post of November 17, 2016. Google +. Available at <https://plus.google.com/101457828255104035246/posts/iGTnL2tZT8s>

¹¹Transhumanist Party Membership Application Form. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/membership/> and <https://goo.gl/forms/IpUjooEZjnfOFUMi2>

the United States Transhumanist Party strongly opposes all forms of bullying, child abuse, and censorship of intellectual self-development by children and teenagers.

Likewise, although we are not aware of any such entities today, if humans should ever come into contact with reasoning non-human beings – be they extraterrestrial life forms, artificial general intelligences, or uplifted animals – such beings would be eligible for membership in the United States Transhumanist Party. By being open to membership by those who would be excluded by traditional political parties, the United States Transhumanist Party not only implements the cosmopolitan ideal; it also aims to defuse political tensions that might arise in the future if historically excluded beings begin to demand civil rights and political representation. Human societies should not resist such claims to rights by entities with reasoning abilities. Rather, those entities should be welcomed into peaceful political processes and other forms of mutually beneficial cooperation, so as to prevent a needlessly adversarial mode of interaction between them and today’s voting population of adult human citizens. Above all, the Transhumanist Party desires a peaceful societal evolution driven by technological progress, such that neither the reactionaries among humans nor any new sentient entities who might be slighted or threatened by subordinate treatment would have any reason to resort to violence or develop any significant capacity for carrying out violent action against groups they consider to be “the other”.

Ranked-preference voting, already implemented by the United States Transhumanist Party in its internal votes, represents a further practical improvement over conventional political structures. All of our voting is conducted electronically, with human verification of each vote to ensure that only registered members vote and that no duplicate votes arise. Each matter being decided upon is exposed to the public for at least 15 days, prior to a seven-day electronic voting period during which all members with valid e-mail addresses can cast ballots at their convenience. Ranked-preference voting enables individuals to express more than a single preference on matters where the choice is not binary – for instance, multiple alternative wordings of a platform plank or, in the future, multiple candidates in a primary election. Each voter is able to rank-order the entire spectrum of options, including an option for “None of the above”. Ranked-preference voting eliminates the incentives for strategic voting, since it alleviates the pressure to wholly support an option which the voter does not hold in high regard, but which is slightly “less bad” than an option which the voter specifically does not wish to win. Instead, the voter could indicate his true first preference, while still ranking the “less bad” option above the option he considers the least desirable. If no option attains a true *majority* (not a mere plurality) of first-preference votes on the first round, then the option that receives the *fewest* votes is eliminated, and its votes reassigned to the second-highest preferences of the voters who favored that option. This instant-runoff process continues for as many rounds as are required for any option to achieve a majority of reassigned votes. If ranked-preference voting were implemented in U.S. elections, many voters would no longer experience either internal or external pressure to sacrifice their genuine preferences to support a “lesser evil” that differs only in slight,

symbolic, or rhetorical ways from the “greater evil” those voters seek to prevent (and about whose identity opinions among voters differ – such that one person’s “greater evil” is another’s “lesser evil”).

The first vote of the United States Transhumanist Party was held between December 25 and December 31, 2016, and led to the adoption of a considerably expanded version of the Transhumanist Bill of Rights.¹² Version 2.0 of this aspirational statement of rights for all sentient entities serves both conceptual and practical purposes. The main conceptual purpose is to define as inclusively as reasonably possible the sentient entities that are deserving of rights and to outline the rights that a future society, animated by radical technological progress, should be able to protect and facilitate. The main practical purpose is to begin formulating a blueprint for attaining such a future society of expanded rights, which enables us to start laying the path that, over the course of several decades, will take us to such a society – hopefully in an environment characterized by peace, incremental progress, and at least gradual acceptance of increased diversity among sentient entities.

It is important to view the rights expressed in the Transhumanist Bill of Rights in the context of the possibilities that a future of radical technological progress would be able to bring about. For instance, a system of universal healthcare might seem today to entail large monetary costs and the need for governments and large private institutions to set up centralized clinics, records, and elaborate systems of financing that involve the entire population. Many skeptics will, with justification, question the practical and moral validity of asserting a “right” for individuals today to benefit from such a system. In the future, however, given the rise of personalized medicine, biotechnology, nanotechnology, and exponentially decreasing costs of production, medical care using versatile, personalized devices and easily administered treatments might become as affordable and ubiquitous as food is in the United States today – and the administration of preventive rejuvenation treatments may become far more economical than both the direct and opportunity costs of allowing severe illnesses to reach a crisis point. Thus, the universal healthcare of the future may be comparable in the ease of its achievement to a “universal” access to food during our era, which almost all people in the Western world can achieve through a trip to a grocery store, to a supermarket, or to a variety of charitable organizations that exist to provide food to those with limited financial resources.

Media coverage of the Transhumanist Bill of Rights escalated in August 2018, when WIRED Magazine republished Version 2.0 in full.¹³ Unfortunately, some of the ensuing commentary in certain other media outlets amplified some basic misrepresentations of the factual content of the Transhumanist Bill of Rights. Commentators such as Michael Cook of the bioconservative website BioEdge and Jasper Hammill of The Metro erroneously asserted that the Transhumanist Bill of Rights, in expressing the right of ending involuntary suffering in Article IV, was

¹²“Transhumanist Bill of Rights – Version 2.0.” United States Transhumanist Party. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/tbr-2/>

¹³“The Transhumanist Bill of Rights Version 2.0.” WIRED Magazine. August 21, 2018. Available at <https://www.wired.com/beyond-the-beyond/2018/08/transhumanist-bill-rights-version-2-0/>

referring to euthanasia, when no such reference was stated or implied; rather, the right to end involuntary suffering refers to the idea that suffering itself should be abolished for still-living entities who desire this, as expressed in David Pearce's philosophy of abolitionism.¹⁴ Furthermore, these commentators erred in stating that the right to universal healthcare, as specified in Article VII, presupposed a monopolistic of single-payer system of healthcare, such as the United Kingdom's National Health Service. However, the means of attaining universal healthcare was left deliberately open-ended in the Transhumanist Bill of Rights. Many of the planks in the U.S. Transhumanist Party Platform, described in greater detail below, advocate for significant free-market elements in healthcare systems. Universal healthcare could mean, for instance, that all services become so inexpensive and automated that everyone would be able to readily afford them. However, different members of the U.S. Transhumanist Party would advocate different systems of healthcare delivery. The Transhumanist Bill of Rights focuses on outcomes, rather than prescribing the specific delivery system – and hence it was determined to be desirable to clarify Article VII to ensure that the pursuit of universal healthcare can remain open-ended and potentially be arrived at through a variety of means, including those not yet conceived of, while allowing discussion and debate to continue within the transhumanist community about whether private or governmental means, or a combination thereof, would be most effective in achieving radical life extension and universal access to healthcare in the most expeditious timeframe possible.

The desire for clarification in response to media misinterpretations, as well as additional enhancements – such as directly integrating the relevant provisions from the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights¹⁵ into the text of the Transhumanist Bill of Rights (with appropriate modification to reflect the broader applicability of these rights to sentient entities irrespective of their manner of origin) – led to the adoption of Version 3.0 of the Transhumanist Bill of Rights following a 15-day exposure and discussion period and a 7-day voting period that occurred during December 2–9, 2018.¹⁶ The complete Transhumanist Bill of Rights, Version 3.0, can be found in Appendix I of this chapter.

In 2017 the emphasis of the Transhumanist Party's voting shifted to the development of a platform which aims to outline stances on as many key issues of our era and of the emerging future as possible – informed by our understanding of the potential of emerging technologies to alter existing political and societal constraints and provide solutions to seemingly intractable contemporary dilemmas. During 2017, six platform votes were successfully conducted, leading to the adoption of 82 distinct planks whose wording was originated by our members and constitutes an

¹⁴“The Hedonistic Imperative – The End of Suffering.” David Pearce and Duarte Baltazar. April 15, 2018. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/04/15/hedonistic-imperative-end-of-suffering/>

¹⁵“Universal Declaration of Human Rights”. United Nations. Available at <http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

¹⁶“Transhumanist Bill of Rights – Version 3.0.” United States Transhumanist Party. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/tbr-3/>

integration of their perspectives. The U.S. Transhumanist Party Platform is found in Article III of our Constitution and will continue to evolve and expand as additional member-generated suggestions are made.¹⁷ Thus far the U.S. Transhumanist Party has taken positions on a broad array of issues, including individual privacy (Section I), sousveillance (Sections XXXIV and LII), morphological freedom and bodily autonomy (Sections VI, XLIX, L, and LXVII), opposition to bigotry (Sections II, XL, and LXIII), support for nuclear disarmament (Sections IV and LXVI), support of research into emerging technologies (Section V) and liberty of scientific and technological innovation (Section VIII), facilitation of and removal of restrictions on potentially life-extending medical research and procedures (Sections LI, LXXVII, LXXIX, LXXX, LXXXI, and LXXXII), support of space colonization (Section XVII), support of a universal and unconditional basic income (Section XVI), an end to the war on drugs (Section XIV), support for freedom of speech (Section XX), recognition of micronations and seasteading efforts (Section XXII), improvements of educational systems (Section XII), children’s rights (Sections XXIII and LXII), animal welfare (Section XXIV), rights of sentient artificial intelligences (Section XXXIII), support for civil liberties, police accountability, and voting rights (Sections LVII, LVIII, LIX, LX, LXXIV, and LXXVIII), support for an international passport (Section LXXII), prevention of existential risks through responsible development of protective technologies (Section XXXII), reduction of the national debt (Section XXXV), tax reform (Section XXXVI), reduction of military spending (Section LXXV), support for emerging energy sources but an opposition to subsidies (Section XXXVIII), support for a “Transhumanist Olympics” (Section XXXIX), opposition to protectionism (Section XLVIII), reforms for achieving more representative, properly limited, transparent, and accountable governments and institutions that influence such governments (Sections XXXVII, XLI, XLII, XLIII, XLIV, XLV, XLVI, XLVII, LIII, LIV, LV, LVI, LXI, LXIV, LXV, LXVIII, LXIX, LXXI, and LXXVI) and a wide spectrum of political reforms designed to lower barriers to participation for “third” political parties and original thinkers who offer substantive alternatives to the two-party establishment (Sections XIII, XIX, XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, XXX, and LXX). The complete Constitution of the U.S. Transhumanist Party as of December 31, 2018, can be found in Appendix II of this chapter.

The U.S. Transhumanist Party can have a significant influence on public opinion long before it establishes an infrastructure for regular electoral participation. In recognition of this, many of our events focus on discussion regarding emerging technologies and outreach to the general public. We also engage in outreach to the media and efforts to shift the discussion on technology-related legislation and regulations in a more techno-positive direction. The U.S. Transhumanist Party’s expert discussion panels aim to attract leading thinkers in key areas of emerging technologies and facilitate their engagement with the public through answering questions of wide-

¹⁷“Constitution of the United States Transhumanist Party. Article III. Platform of the Transhumanist Party.” United States Transhumanist Party. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/constitution/#Article3>

spread interest regarding their fields, as well as indicating promising future directions for their endeavors. The expert discussion panels are streamed live, and video recordings are available to the public, free of charge and in perpetuity.

On January 8, 2017, the U.S. Transhumanist Party held its Discussion Panel on Artificial Intelligence, featuring Zak Field, David J. Kelley, Hiroyuki Toyama, Mark Waser, and Demian Zivkovic.¹⁸ This was followed by the Discussion Panel on Life Extension, held on February 18, 2017, featuring Bill Andrews, Aubrey de Grey, Ira Pastor, and Ilia Stambler.¹⁹ On November 18, 2017, the U.S. Transhumanist Party hosted its Discussion Panel on Art and Transhumanism, co-moderated by me and Director of Visual Art Emanuel Iral, featuring Rachel Lyn Edler, John Marlowe, Leah Montalto, Kim Bodenhamer Smith, R. Nicholas Starr, Ekaterinya Vladinakova, and Laura Katrin Weston.²⁰ On February 18, 2018, the U.S. Transhumanist Party collaborated with the Institute of Exponential Sciences to host the Discussion Panel on Cryptocurrencies, co-moderated by me and Demian Zivkovic, and featuring guest panelists Chantha Lueung, Laurens Wes, and Moritz Bierling.²¹

Each discussion panel provided over 2 hours of cutting-edge content regarding the fields of research and creative endeavor that stand poised to revolutionize the human condition – *if* accompanied by appropriate societal and political openness to their progress. In the role of a moderator for all four panels, I had the distinct honor of soliciting the experts' advice on what societal and political improvements and approaches could accelerate the timeframe within which emerging technologies would be able to bring us significant benefits, as well as how contemporary attitudes and perceptions could be transformed through a combination of techno-positive artistic, scientific, and philosophical pursuits. Below I summarize some of the key insights that participants in these four panels provided.

- **Bill Andrews:** The perception of the anti-aging industry needs to change, which depends on the people leading that industry. Unfortunately, the field of anti-aging has long had more quacks and charlatans than any other field, and so it is impera-

¹⁸The video recording of the Discussion Panel on Artificial Intelligence can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y54UtBgFK-w>. Biographical descriptions of the panel participants, as well as an outline of some of the key questions they addressed, can be found at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2017/01/08/ustp-ai-discussion-panel/>

¹⁹The video recording of the Discussion Panel on Life Extension can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1HYB_o37SYc. The audio recording can be found at http://rationalargumentator.com/USTP_Life_Extension_Panel.mp3. Biographical descriptions of the panel participants, as well as an outline of some of the key questions they addressed and the references they provided, can be found at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2017/02/18/ustp-le-discussion-panel/>

²⁰The video recording of the Discussion Panel on Art and Transhumanism can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLtYUTkbOdU>. Biographical descriptions of the panel participants and the chat log from the panel can be found at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2017/11/19/ustp-art-panel/>

²¹The video recording of the Discussion Panel on Cryptocurrencies can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiWjzfbJO-Y>. Biographical descriptions of the panel participants and the chat log from the panel can be found at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/02/18/ustp-crypto-panel/>

tive to overcome this perception by finding treatments that work. This is a “Catch 22” situation; in order to come up with a treatment that works, we need public perception on our side to generate the funding that can achieve research breakthroughs. We need to find a way to break this standstill. Anti-aging researchers are continuing to move as fast as they can, given the limited funding available, and they hope that this will be enough to achieve sufficiently significant advances to get the general public to view this field as credible and worthwhile. Alleviating any of the major causes of aging could be the catalyst for a shift in public perception, attracting enough support to enable us to reach longevity escape velocity.

- **Moritz Bierling:** We currently have an understanding of money that is conditioned by the fact that money has most often been state-managed; we tend to view it as universal and measure and evaluate everything else in terms of money – but it is possible to view money in a more nuanced way. Each currency is, in fact, targeted toward specific goals, and if you do not know what those goals are, somebody else does, and that person is the beneficiary of that monetary system at your expense. Right now governments do have certain interests in mind when they manage monetary systems; for instance, they engage in inflation at the expense of the citizens and transfer value from the population to themselves. More generally, however, currencies should have a goal in mind – for instance, achieving specific objectives for a community. However, the desirability of a currency will depend on who designs the goals and who accepts the design; currencies based on consent are superior to those backed by force.
- **Rachel Lyn Edler:** Graphic designers and other artists have a unique opportunity to enhance communication and visual perception of the world. Advancement of science and technology requires a diverse range of skills to improve and enhance humanity. We need not only scientists but communicators of science to spread the message of transhumanism and how humankind can evolve. We need to have more positive representations of the future in movies, books, and other art forms. It is part of the job of creative people to bring this about. Designing the Immortality Bus was an excellent opportunity to inspire people to become more interested in science, technology, and the potential to stop biological aging. There was a wide range of reactions to the Immortality Bus, ranging from shock to inspiration, and extensive media coverage was generated.
- **Zak Field:** The creation process for artificial intelligence can itself help push new ideas into circulation within the general population. As artificial general intelligence (AGI) advances, it will be important for the public to recognize that AGI can be more than a series of algorithms within a humanoid shell. Artificial intelligence can relieve a lot of stress and alleviate existing socioeconomic issues. AI can serve as an aid and provide reassurance that humans are taking appropriate actions, but humans should not take any first glance at information, including information provided by AI, as an absolute. Rather, humans should walk forward hand-in-hand with AI to discover more possibilities, excite the general populace, and motivate creativity.
- **Emanuel Iral:** Art should confront people with important ideas about the future and enable us to have conversations about concepts and possibilities that we

normally avoid. Art should enable humans to collaborate as a species toward improving the future. Nietzsche's portrayal of the individual as an entity of will and action can be adapted to apply to and improve the entire species and generate momentum toward developing technology to achieve major breakthroughs, such as reaching Mars and overcoming diseases. Art enables humans to become radical agents for the longevity of our species. We should always strive to seek knowledge and to have a healthy pride in our ability to pursue and obtain it. Humans are by nature severely flawed and can be arrogant, but we can turn that arrogance around and put it to good use. Having pride as the human species is important, and the ideal of transhumanism is a beacon that enables us to improve, set aside old flaws, and progress together so that everyone's suffering can be alleviated. The vision of eliminating suffering and achieving indefinite life is not a difficult ideal to embrace, but an easy one – and it is now within our grasp.

- **Aubrey de Grey:** Because of the difficulties for minor political parties to access the ballot box, the major focus of the Transhumanist Party should be to shape public opinion in the direction of embracing rejuvenation biotechnology. The Transhumanist Party should have different goals in the short term versus the long term. In the short term, the challenge is to overcome the prevalent negative connotations of the word “transhumanism”. Language is more powerful than it ought to be. However, we can fix this issue, much like the word “rejuvenation” has been rehabilitated over the past decade and has come to mean the actual reversal of biological age through repair of damage. In terms of what ordinary people can do, shortage of funding is by far the number one barrier to the rate of progress. While not everyone is in a position to contribute directly, everyone is in a position to contribute indirectly – including by spreading ideas and raising the quality of debate. The less wealthy you are, the more people you know who are wealthier than you, who could provide the funds to support serious anti-aging medicine. It is important to learn the ability to stop people from changing the subject when discussing the importance of life-extension research.
- **David J. Kelley:** There is a lot of fear-mongering and hype that people should endeavor to avoid. It is important to dispel the over-hyping and oppose overly restrictive laws that would needlessly obstruct the potential for developing artificial intelligence. The unjustified fear of AI could itself generate the kinds of sociological problems that AI critics fear would arise. We need to make rational decisions instead of emphasizing speculative disasters that are not going to happen. Developing artificial general intelligence is the most effective path for achieving stable, long-term intelligence, including outside of the Earth.
- **Chantha Lueung:** Currently we live in a centralized economy under centralized authority. Going forward into the future, what we are seeing now in the crypto space is that a lot of things are being decentralized. This is exciting, because we will have an economy of choice rather than being pigeonholed into a single economy in which one has to participate; there is a potential to decentralize everything, including crucial processes such as food production. This is both possible and efficient, and opens up many doors for people. Hopefully we will see many more people involved in these technologies.

- **John Marlowe:** The potential to be afflicted by disease currently unites all of us, and the messaging of a lot of contemporary science fiction in portraying disease unfortunately does a disservice by discouraging efforts to address the problems of ill health. Right now our culture does not adequately emphasize the importance of medical research, and there are only occasional individual and philanthropic efforts in this area. We need to be proactive in calling out irresponsible portrayals and encourage art that motivates us to come up with solutions where there were none before. Improving funding of scientific and medical research, including for organizations such as the National Institutes of Health in the United States, is crucial for helping alleviate suffering. We also need to advocate the rights of individuals to experiment for the improvement of their health, while also stressing caution and vigilance about downstream effects of attempted modifications. It is important for those who self-experiment to be well-informed, experienced, knowledgeable about the risks, and willing to accept the consequences.
- **Leah Montalto:** We need to overcome the myth that art lacks any real effect. Scientific research is increasingly uncovering how interactions with art have profound effects on the human brain. It is radically more difficult to create art that is optimistic than it is to create dystopian art, because optimistic art does not have the same instantaneous “hooks” for people’s attention that horrific, depressing, and dark portrayals can provide. It is worthwhile to consider how art, music, and media are affecting the quality of our attention, thoughts, and emotions, and how this in turn affects decision-making processes and the political and cultural environment.
- **Ira Pastor:** It is important to stay educated and knowledgeable about science and make science and technology publicly appealing. We are a lot closer to major world-transforming breakthroughs than we have ever been before and than many might understand, based on disappointed expectations generated by prior predictions. It is a matter of focusing on the end-game. We need to get public interest and excitement in motion again, outside the sphere of those who can afford to make major investments, and enable the public to be aware of the possibility of a beautiful future soon.
- **Kim Bodenhamer Smith:** Technology can greatly improve quality of life and enable humans to have far more time for creative activities. Through technology, creativity will become dramatically easier and will integrate into everyday life. Even this very discussion panel is an excellent illustration of the power of technology to connect people from different parts of the country and the world, enabling conversations that would not have happened otherwise. It is important to design a coherent package for articulating transhumanist ideas to the world and telling stories to which people could relate, so as to humanize and personalize the radical political agendas of transhumanism. Zoltan Istvan was extremely effective at this with his Immortality Bus tour – essentially using an art car and touring the country to convey transhumanist ideas and begin a conversation through which people can learn more about one another and collaborate.

- **Iliia Stambler:** We need people to study, advocate, and get involved with like-minded others. Possibilities for involvement with both online and local communities are growing exponentially. The issue of life-extension advocacy needs to become political, because the funding is mostly held in the hands of politicians. The politics of life extension can be right-wing or left-wing, but we need to put this major issue of our time on the political agenda, as this issue is about our survival. History teaches us that nobody learns anything from history, so every time we unfortunately have to reinvent the wheel. In many prior eras of history, some people expected the cure for aging to be imminent – but at least now we may have a decent chance to achieve this goal, and it is important to grab this chance.
- **R. Nicholas Starr:** Art inspires us to take the next technological steps. Breakthrough ideas may originate in art first and then become developed by scientists, and this has been a tendency since the time of antiquity. Art can motivate action and instill a variety of emotions – both in a direct manner, as with much popular culture, and subtly, as with audio tracks to films. Visual art and music can be processed in meaningful ways by the mind “behind the scenes”, which has an impact on attitudes and actions. Today’s technologies enable artists to create flexibly – to go where the inspiration is – which has historically been difficult to do. From an artistic point of view, the DIY (do-it-yourself) movement can be seen as biological art or performance art, combining scientific pursuits with creative ways to bring the conversation about science and technology to the world.
- **Hiroyuki Toyama:** Artificial intelligence can provide a variety of benefits in commerce, education, and health. For instance, AI can enrich human well-being and health by helping with stress management (including the overcoming of information overload), cognitive and behavioral assistance, and development of extraordinary physical reactions to external events and stressors. However, people should always keep in mind the difference between human intentions and how AI will actually function. AI does not have human instincts such as self-preservation or procreation. It is important not to project human biases and motivations onto AI.
- **Ekaterinya Vladinakova:** Art is far more than a luxury. Design is also art, and functional design can convey a beautiful vision of the future – as seen, for example, in the Tesla automobiles and the designs for the hyperloop. Art is everywhere – in the design of buildings and vehicles; it is also a way of advertising technologies and attracting people’s attention to certain topics – including the technologies of the future. In America there is a problem with terminally ill people having access to drugs, but the right-to-try movement is making important gains in addressing this issue and improving the freedom of patients to pursue last-ditch efforts to extend life through experimental treatments.
- **Mark Waser:** Creating artificial intelligence is an awesome opportunity to learn about ourselves, improve ourselves, and improve our society. As we learn more, we gain great power, and we need to take some responsibility for our goals and assess what actions will lead to what results. The future can be absolutely wonderful, or it can be terrible. We need to work to make sure it turns out for the best.

Humans are extremely vulnerable to all sorts of hype, including about emerging technologies. We need to reach a condition where we argue facts, value science, and value discourse rather than talking past one another. This issue is broader than artificial intelligence; it is an issue of how humanity in general will move forward. We need to develop tools and programs to enable us to debate more effectively, keep track of debates, and determine who is able to accurately predict the future and summarize events. Efforts to create AGI can also enable the creation of these kinds of tools.

- **Laurens Wes:** Bitcoin may have a large market share now as the first cryptocurrency, but it may also have largely had its time, as investors are shifting toward smart contracts and technologies that enable them, such as Ethereum. Recently the cost of mining and energy consumption have become problems for Bitcoin and other large cryptocurrencies, and people have been developing other ways to mine cryptocurrencies. The proof-of-stake concept in cryptocurrencies may have a more viable future than proof-of-work – but it is by no means a final solution; indeed, the entire cryptocurrency field is still in its infancy, where no one yet has an ultimate solution. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence is each year becoming more capable at tasks that previously only humans were able to do. More recent applications of AI are becoming a bit more humanlike – for instance, by imitating the movements of biological organisms. AI systems can become significant players in blockchain technologies and capital markets in the coming years. Over time the division between AI and humans will become a gray area, and we will no longer consider AI systems to be mere machines and algorithms.
- **Laura Katrin Weston:** Artists are lucky to have a vast array of technological tools to enable people to connect to one another. Until the problem of biological human mortality is resolved, art is the closest to immortality that humans will get, and so it should be used to highlight the issues that humankind should tackle. It is important, however, to emphasize caution and the need for improved education when it comes to self-experimentation, since much about the workings of the human body remains unknown even to medical professionals; still, people need to have the freedom to make decisions about health for themselves. We need to consider ways to improve current medical systems to make sure that people who are suffering from serious illnesses have more choices than just the experimental and self-medicating route.
- **Demian Zivkovic:** There are significant intersections between life extension and artificial intelligence – for instance, the use of AI to discover new drugs and cut the costs of pharmacological research. There are many opportunities to improve corporate processes that could increase the rate at which research is done and attract investment. However, one of the greatest sources of harm in engendering a flawed and overly pessimistic view of emerging technologies is the entertainment industry, which attempts to sell dystopian visions of the future, which are easier to sensationalize than hopeful but nuanced visions of successful societies where all significant problems have been solved and indefinite life extension has been achieved. We need to overcome this fear-mongering.

5.3 Achievements in 2018

While the U.S. Transhumanist Party's activities in 2017 focused strongly on the development of its Platform and internal infrastructure, 2018 was characterized by significant membership growth (with the U.S. Transhumanist Party more than doubling its membership count during its second year from 550 to 1140), formation of additional State-level Transhumanist Parties (including a highly active California Transhumanist Party,²² chaired by U.S. Transhumanist Party Education and Media Advisor Newton Lee, as well as incipient Transhumanist Parties in New York and Michigan, and continuation of the online presences of Transhumanist Parties in Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, New Hampshire, and Texas), as well as presentations, interviews, and meetings in a variety of venues.

On September 13, 2018, I presented virtually to the Vanguard Scientific Instruments in Management 2018 (VSIM:18) Conference in Ravda, Bulgaria, on the subject of "How Transhumanism Can Transcend Socialism, Libertarianism, and All Other Conventional Ideologies" – which described the key strengths and weaknesses of libertarianism, socialism, conservatism, and left-liberalism, the common failings of these and all other conventional ideologies, and why transhumanism offers a principled, integrated, dynamic approach for a new era of history, which can overcome all of these failings.²³

On September 21, 2018, I spoke at the RAAD Fest 2018 conference in San Diego, California, on the four-year anniversary of the U.S. Transhumanist Party and its distinguishing aspects and achievements.²⁴ Following this speech I interviewed renowned futurist Ray Kurzweil on stage and engaged in a multifaceted discussion with him on subjects ranging from data privacy to the impacts of artificial intelligence to the potential to adopt personalized health regimens to overcome serious illnesses.²⁵ During the next day, on September 22, 2018, the U.S. Transhumanist Party held an in-person meeting in San Diego, where Chairman Gennady Stolyarov II, Director of Marketing Arin Vahanian, and Education and Media Advisor and California Transhumanist Party Chairman Newton Lee fielded inquiries from attendees (including several leading transhumanist public figures), provided input regarding future initiatives, and considered suggestions from members and the pub-

²²The California Transhumanist Party website can be found <http://www.californiatranshumanist-party.org/index.html>

²³Stolyarov II, Gennady. "How Transhumanism Can Transcend Socialism, Libertarianism, and All Other Conventional Ideologies". U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. September 13, 2018. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/09/16/transhumanism-transcend-ideologies/>. The video recording of this presentation can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5AmAGMXvSbI>

²⁴Stolyarov II, Gennady. "The U.S. Transhumanist Party – Four Years of Advocating for the Future". U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. September 21, 2018. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/10/26/ustp-4-years/>. The video recording of this speech can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kykROYu_xNc

²⁵A video excerpt from my September 21, 2018, interview with Ray Kurzweil is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PIr-Pm_5mbM

lic regarding future activities that may be beneficial for growing the transhumanist movement.²⁶

Multiple successful interviews in 2018 delved into the philosophical, political, and societal landscapes which the transhumanist movement is navigating in this era. On March 31, 2018, Nikola Danaylov of the Singularity.FM program – also known as Socrates and famous for his in-depth interviews of leading future-oriented thinkers – interviewed me for nearly 3 hours, which broke the record for the length of Mr. Danaylov’s conversations. The interview covered the efforts and aspirations of the U.S. Transhumanist Party, and also delved into such subjects as the definition of transhumanism, intelligence and morality, the technological Singularity or Singularities, and health and fitness.²⁷

On the last day of the RAAD Fest 2018 conference, September 23, 2018, Andrés Grases, the publisher of the Transhuman Plus website²⁸ – a vast archive of information on the transhumanist movement – interviewed me regarding both the contemporary state of transhumanist politics and its future directions.²⁹ We addressed the challenges to reforming the educational system, the need to create open access to academic works, the manner in which the transition toward the next era of technologies will occur, the meaning of transhumanism, and its applications in the proximate future – including promising advances that we can expect to see during the next several years.

On October 5, 2018, I was a guest on Ryan O’Shea’s Future Grind podcast, where one of the most in-depth discussions of the contemporary state of Transhumanist politics took place.³⁰ Mr. O’Shea presented me with some of the most detailed and well-researched questions I have encountered regarding current political issues in the U.S. Transhumanist Party and transhumanist movement.

²⁶“U.S. Transhumanist Party Meeting at RAAD Fest 2018”. U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. September 22, 2018. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/10/02/ustp-meeting-raad-fest-2018/>. The video recording of the meeting can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWYoSj3WZk>

²⁷Stolyarov II, Gennady, and Danaylov, Nikola. “U.S. Transhumanist Chairman Gennady Stolyarov II Interviewed by Nikola Danaylov of Singularity.FM”. U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. March 31, 2018. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2018/04/06/stolyarov-singularity-interview/>. The video recording of this interview can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MzYGmArriI4>. The U.S. Transhumanist Party would like to thank its Director of Admissions and Public Relations, Dinorah Delfin, for the outreach that enabled this interview to happen.

²⁸The Transhuman Plus website can be accessed at <http://transhumanplus.com/>

²⁹Stolyarov II, Gennady, and Grases, Andrés. “Andrés Grases Interviews U.S. Transhumanist Party Chairman Gennady Stolyarov II on Transhumanism and the Transition to the Next Technological Era”. U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. September 23, 2018. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2018/09/29/grases-interviews-stolyarov/>. The video recording of this interview can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z_VjFfImxC0

³⁰Stolyarov II, Gennady, and O’Shea, Ryan. “Future Grind Episode 28: Ryan O’Shea Interviews Gennady Stolyarov II on the State of Transhumanist Politics”. U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. October 5, 2018. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2018/10/10/future-grind-ep-28/>. The video recording of this interview can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLdC3my1QiQ>

On October 28, 2018, I was interviewed by Lev Polyakov and Jules Hamilton of the channel “Lev and Jules Break the Rules” – for whose “Sowing Discourse” podcast series I was honored to be the first guest. This interview explored broad questions related to technology, transhumanism, culture, economics, politics, philosophy, art, and even connections to popular films and computer games.³¹

In addition to public appearances, from September 2017 through October 2018, I hosted five Enlightenment Salons – interdisciplinary gatherings to exchange knowledge and expertise for the improvement of the human condition, in the spirit of the Age of Enlightenment. The gatherings include both formal and informal discussion segments; the formal discussion segments are recorded, and the video recordings are published online.³² The purpose of the revived Enlightenment Salons is to apply, within the contemporary world, the approach of the thinkers of the Age of Enlightenment – to synthesize the insights from various disciplines and inspire progress to be made in improving the human condition. Therefore, guests with widely varying areas of interest and expertise are welcome to join in these conversations.

5.4 Endorsed Candidates in 2018

The United States Transhumanist Party endorsed two candidates for office during the 2018 elections. All endorsements of candidates, like the adoption of Platform planks or Articles of the Transhumanist Bill of Rights, are accomplished through electronic votes of the members.

On April 12, 2018, the U.S. Transhumanist Party endorsed the candidacy of James D. Schultz for New York State Assembly District 2.³³ Mr. Schultz’s positions

³¹Stolyarov II, Gennady, Hamilton, Jules, and Polyakov, Lev. “Gennady Stolyarov II Interviewed on “Lev and Jules Break the Rules” – Sowing Discourse, Episode #001”. U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. November 6, 2018. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2018/11/07/gsi-sowing-discourse/>. The video recording of this interview can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfJsgw5zyRI>

³²Video recordings from the Enlightenment Salons are found here:

- First Enlightenment Salon (September 17, 2017): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i11W90ZuGrk>
- Second Enlightenment Salon (November 11, 2017): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y6-muwId6ao>
- Third Enlightenment Salon (May 27, 2018): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=swP9nPj-2kk>
- Fourth Enlightenment Salon (July 8, 2018): Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CEoNEbSmAbg>, Part 2: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N8TMJ_uKoJM, and Part 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SsoEtCUZQZ8>.
- Fifth Enlightenment Salon (October 13, 2018): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ejHXvBvTEck>

³³“The U.S. Transhumanist Party Endorses James D. Schultz for New York State Assembly District 2”. U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. April 12, 2018. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/04/12/ustp-endorses-schultz/>

as a candidate encompassed certain key stances taken by the U.S. Transhumanist Party – such as legalization of cannabis, mandatory police body cameras, net neutrality, and, most importantly, reduced ballot-access requirements for candidates and political parties.³⁴ However, despite the best intentions, Mr. Schultz’s campaign fell slightly short of the onerous ballot-access threshold established by the two major political parties in New York State. Mr. Schultz’s petition effort garnered 1239 signatures by hand, but this was not sufficient to meet the 1500-signature threshold established as the minimum in New York for ballot access for the State Assembly positions. Accordingly, on August 21, 2018, Mr. Schultz announced the discontinuation of his campaign.³⁵ Mr. Schultz’s diligent effort does, however, demonstrate that transhumanism can attract supporters in the four-figure range with diligent advocacy. The challenge for future candidates seeking to align themselves with the U.S. Transhumanist Party will be how to leverage that appeal to overcome the barriers that the onerous ballot-access thresholds have established to the political participation of thoughtful individuals who seek to offer alternatives to the two-party duopoly. Americans need to have a genuine choice of considering innovative, creative voices that can offer true progress. The example of Mr. Schultz’s campaign underscores why the U.S. Transhumanist Party strongly supports reducing or eliminating ballot-access thresholds wherever and to whatever extent possible.

After James D. Schultz ended his campaign, the U.S. Transhumanist Party nonetheless took steps to ensure that it would have an endorsed candidate on the ballot in the 2018 general election. I had qualified for ballot access in Nevada to run for one of the positions on the Board of Trustees of the Indian Hills General Improvement District (IHGID). The key message of my campaign was essentially transhumanist but framed in a manner that would appeal to mainstream audiences and bring new constituencies into the transhumanist movement: “Through reason, technology, and respect for property rights, we can live well and improve.”³⁶ When considering endorsing my candidacy, the U.S. Transhumanist Party published a detailed analysis of how my specific campaign messages found significant parallels in the U.S. Transhumanist Party Platform, Core Ideals, and Transhumanist Bill of Rights, Version 2.0.³⁷ Ultimately, on September 10, 2018, my candidacy was unanimously

³⁴“U.S. Transhumanist Party Vote on the Question of Endorsing Candidate James D. Schultz for the New York State Assembly District 2”. U.S. Transhumanist Party Website. April 3, 2018. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2018/04/03/ustp-schultz-vote/>

³⁵“U.S. Transhumanist Party Candidate James D. Schultz Ends His Campaign for New York State Assembly District 2”. August 21, 2018. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/08/22/schultz-ends-campaign/>

³⁶“Gennady Stolyarov II for the Board of Trustees of the Indian Hills General Improvement District”. Available at <http://rationalargumentator.com/stolyarov-for-ihgid.html>

³⁷“U.S. Transhumanist Party Vote on the Question of Endorsing Gennady Stolyarov II for the Indian Hills General Improvement District Board of Trustees”. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/09/02/ustp-stolyarov-vote/>

endorsed by those³⁸ U.S. Transhumanist Party members who voted on this matter. Outreach to the residents of the IHGID was performed through a combination of online and in-person techniques, including live and electronic correspondence with residents, candidate walks in the IHGID-managed parks (for which I used the social network Nextdoor.com to announce the walks and invite residents to join me), a campaign website, and my participation in the IHGID-hosted “Meet the Candidates Night” – of which a video recording has been published and displayed, along with the video appearances of other candidates, on the IHGID website.³⁹ Furthermore, The Record-Courier, a local newspaper, published the profiles of all of the candidates, including my own, which contributed to public awareness of my candidacy.⁴⁰

In the election for the IHGID Board of Trustees, I ultimately obtained 520 votes out of 2024 residents who cast their ballots. While I did not win a seat on the Board, 25.7 percent – more than a quarter – of the voters cast affirmative ballots in my favor. As I commented in my Chairman’s Second Anniversary Message,

While I would have preferred to win, this outcome still shows that my campaign – on which I spent no money but rather utilized social media, in-person appearances in public places, videos, and word of mouth – enabled me to reach more than a quarter of the residents after beginning with essentially zero name recognition in the area. Transhumanism, when articulated in a mainstream-friendly manner, can elicit support from people across the political spectrum and in all walks of life. We just need to continue to spread our message with determination and deliberate regarding ways of reaching constituencies who might not have become aware of transhumanism yet – perhaps because our methods of communication have not yet overlapped with their preferred media and social circles.⁴¹

Indeed, it appears that the major challenge for the spread of transhumanism is how to achieve basic awareness within the general public of transhumanist ideas and the very emerging technologies that are poised to dramatically reshape the human condition. I see my 2018 campaign as being a microcosm of what the transhumanist project faces more broadly when it is being articulated and promoted. I further observed the following in my Chairman’s Second Anniversary Message:

My campaign, based on all indications, dominated on the Internet and social media – yet there are many residents of the District who do not appear to use the Internet or social media

³⁸“U.S. Transhumanist Party Unanimously Endorses Gennady Stolyarov II for the Board of Trustees of the Indian Hills General Improvement District”. September 11, 2018. Available at <https://transhumanist-party.org/2018/09/11/ustp-stolyarov-endorsement/>

³⁹“Gennady Stolyarov II Presents at the ‘Meet the Candidates’ Night of the Indian Hills General Improvement District”. October 23, 2018. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2018/10/23/stolyarov-ihgid/>

⁴⁰“Indian Hills General Improvement District”. The Record-Courier. October 18, 2018. Available at <https://www.recordcourier.com/news/indian-hills-general-improvement-district/>

⁴¹Gennady Stolyarov II. “U.S. Transhumanist Party Chairman’s Second Anniversary Message”. November 18, 2018. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2018/11/18/ustp-chairman-2nd-anniversary/>

to any great extent. All of my interactions with residents who knew of my campaign have been extremely positive, but I posit that there exists a large demographic whom my efforts did not reach because there was not any online medium to even facilitate an in-person interaction (e.g., they did not see my announcements on Nextdoor.com and did not watch the candidate videos; also, their in-person activities do not overlap with mine).

Transhumanists tend generally to follow emerging technologies closely and be more open to contemplating and adopting transformative technologies than many other segments of the population, who may wait to adopt a technology until it becomes ubiquitous in everyday life, and some of whom may even delay adopting various technologies – including computers and the Internet – well past the advent of their ubiquity. Yet these constituents need to be reached as well, and transhumanists should deliberate about and refine approaches to communicate ideas about the technological future toward which these potential constituents, too, would gravitate. This is, of course, an ongoing challenge, for which there are no simple solutions, but the U.S. Transhumanist Party encourages its members to become active in public outreach and experiment with various combinations of constructive persuasion and advocacy techniques.

5.5 The United States Transhumanist Party – Future Goals

My major goal as Chairman during the transitional period of the U.S. Transhumanist Party is to create a true member-driven organization whose continued existence does not depend on the exertions of one individual or a small group of people. Rather, as long as interest in transhumanist ideas persists – and it should only increase as the impact of emerging technologies on everyday life becomes more salient – the Transhumanist Party should remain a prominent presence in public discourse and policy deliberations. The Transhumanist Party should serve as a vehicle to enable any person interested in constructively advocating for the adoption of emerging technologies to make a positive difference in their realization.

During the transitional period the U.S. Transhumanist Party aims to achieve major membership growth, facilitating a pool of talented individuals who could rise to leadership positions within the Party structure and who could stand as candidates in local, state, and federal elections. Our free, flexible, Internet-based membership structure liberates people from the constraints of time and place; they can contribute from any location in the world, and only the merits of their contributions and their desire to be involved will determine the influence they as individuals have on the Transhumanist Party's future course.

While the Transhumanist Party seeks to incorporate aspects of democratic decision-making and build a governance structure representative of perspectives within the broader transhumanist and life-extensionist communities, we also recognize the necessity of maintaining flexibility in any democratic governance structure.

Democratic decision-making should be combined with respect for individual initiative under the framework of the U.S. Transhumanist Party. Voting is useful when differences of perspective exist that cannot be reconciled by other means – such as efforts at consensus or the ability of individuals to pursue multiple compatible projects in parallel, even if those projects may stem from different ideological motivations. Some matters, such as platform planks where differences of opinion are possible, are best decided in a democratic manner. Other matters – such as hosting a specific event, writing an article or research paper, participating in a rally, or delivering a speech – are best left to the discretion of individual members who may then choose to affiliate such activities with the Transhumanist Party.

It is also important for any effective governance structure to avoid excessive bureaucracy and location-bound decision-making. The former tends to stifle the kind of initiative that generates member-driven projects fueled by passion for contributing to a worthwhile cause. The latter tends to create a clique of people “in the know” – who control the levers of decision-making by virtue of their proximity to a geographical center of power and to one another. Neither of these traditional obstacles to progress should exist in a future-oriented political party aimed at the technologically facilitated liberation of human creative faculties. My hope is that the Transhumanist Party will never have mandatory location-bound meetings that are only accessible to people who choose to spend hundreds or thousands of dollars to travel to an expensive hotel in a large American city. Rather, all events where decisions are made should remain electronically accessible and open to remote input and participation by members. Live events where decisions are not made – for instance, outreach events where some members communicate transhumanist ideas to the general public – should be documented through any electronic media that are practicable given the event, including video and audio recordings, digital photographs, and published online accounts of the events that would give other members an understanding of what was done to spread the impact of the Transhumanist Party’s vision of the future. Furthermore, future governance structures of the Transhumanist Party should recognize the impossibility of centrally planning progress. It is neither feasible nor desirable to establish comprehensive policies and procedures that could anticipate and accommodate every worthwhile initiative. Instead, the attempt to foresee and plan all activities in advance generally only forecloses on worthwhile opportunities and spontaneous suggestions that could not have been conceived prior to the specific circumstances that gave rise to them. The Transhumanist Party should always remain flexible and open to unusual but potentially effective suggestions for advancing a future of technological progress and radical abundance.

In addition to direct discussions of emerging technologies, the Transhumanist Party should continue to advocate major electoral reforms to reduce the power of the two-party duopoly. The internal Transhumanist Party governance and decision-making structures – including electronic ranked-preference voting and the location-independent approach to membership – should be used to illustrate proofs of concept regarding how the larger U.S. political system could be improved. Broader electoral

reforms advocated by the U.S. Transhumanist Party, as contained in Article III of our Constitution, include the following:

- Increased involvement of intelligent laypersons in the political process to counter the influence of special interests and their paid representatives; greater use of electronic and other technologies that can inform and empower intelligent laypersons to monitor and contribute to political discussions and decisions. (Section XIII)
- An end to the two-party political system in the United States and a substantially greater inclusion of “third parties” in the political process through mechanisms such as proportional representation and the elimination of stringent ballot-access requirements. (Section XIX)
- Limits on the influence of lobbying by politically connected special interests, while increasing the influence of advocacy by intelligent laypersons. (Section XIX)
- Constitutional reform to abolish the Electoral College in the United States Presidential elections and render the plurality of the popular vote the sole criterion for the election of President. (Section XXVII)
- Greatly shortening the timeframe for electoral campaigns to counteract the “horse race” mentality and prevent voters from forgetting key information due to short memories. Election seasons for public office should be as short as possible, to enable all relevant information to be disseminated quickly and be considered by most voters within the same timeframe as their decisions are made. (Section XXVIII)
- Abolishing all staggered party primaries so that all primary elections are held on the same day across the entire country. With staggered party primaries, individuals voting later – solely because of the jurisdiction in which they reside – find their choices severely constrained due to the prior elimination of candidates whom they might have preferred. (Section XXIX)
- Replacing the current “winner-take-all” electoral system with proportional representation, ranked-preference voting, and other devices to minimize the temptations by voters to favor a perceived “lesser evil” rather than the candidates closest to those voters’ own preferences. (Section XXX)

While ballot access is not the highest priority in the short term due to the extreme stringency of ballot-access laws in many states (the least onerous of which require thousands of petition signatures in order for a political party to even place candidates on the ballot), the U.S. Transhumanist Party aims to provide support for State-level Transhumanist Parties to develop and eventually conduct initiatives to obtain ballot access. To encourage grassroots formation of State-level Transhumanist Parties, the U.S. Transhumanist Party will respect the initiative and organizational autonomy of those who undertake the effort to form them. Article I, Section III, Operating Principle 1, of our Constitution allows State-level Transhumanist Parties to determine their internal bylaws, platforms, and activities. While the U.S. Transhumanist Party aims to collaborate with and support State-level Transhumanist Parties, it will not impose

involuntary constraints on State-level Transhumanist Parties that operate peacefully within the boundaries of applicable law.

It is furthermore possible for the U.S. Transhumanist Party, through votes of its members, to endorse independent candidates and even candidates for nonpartisan office, as long as those candidates are not running on behalf of any other political party. Moreover, as of 2018, 24 States and Washington D.C. allow an independent candidate who qualifies to run for office to use a “political party designation” which can be printed next to that candidate’s name on the ballot, even if the political party to which the designation refers has not qualified for ballot access in that State.⁴² The U.S. Transhumanist Party is always on the lookout for thoughtful individuals who aim to bring a constructive, policy-oriented focus to politics and who seek to champion the role of emerging technologies in solving complex societal problems and ameliorating the human condition. Even if such individuals have not historically used the term “transhumanism” to refer to their efforts and may not know that they are transhumanists yet, the U.S. Transhumanist Party is interested in finding common ground and exploring avenues for collaboration with them.

After several years of building its internal infrastructure and engaging in public outreach and membership growth, the U.S. Transhumanist Party aims to field a candidate in the 2020 U.S. Presidential elections. One of the major aims of this book is to attract a highly qualified, erudite, scientifically and rationally minded individual to become this candidate. This person could have an academic background or, alternatively, could be a thought leader in other areas – for instance, an entrepreneur, author, or public intellectual. The key hope for such an individual would be to thoughtfully articulate the promise posed by various emerging technologies in a manner that is at once ambitious and realistic – outlining both a long-range vision of what is possible and the incremental steps which can be taken in the near term to get there. We understand that the existing political system in the United States would virtually preclude a candidate outside the two-party duopoly from becoming elected, but a predominantly educational campaign spearheaded by a Transhumanist candidate for President could still attract a remarkable amount of media and public attention to the potential of emerging technologies, as Zoltan Istvan’s 2016 campaign demonstrated.

5.6 Long-Term Political Vision

While the short-term and intermediate goals of the U.S. Transhumanist Party focus primarily on raising awareness, facilitating discussion, and shifting public opinion in favor of emerging technologies, our long-term vision is far more ambitious. Through a series of incremental achievements, we hope to trigger a cascade of

⁴²“Political party designation”. Ballotpedia. Available at https://ballotpedia.org/Political_party_designation

events that will precipitate a peaceful revolution in politics and in the human condition itself. Within the coming decades, we aim to achieve worldwide radical abundance, universal prosperity, and indefinite lifespans for anyone who seeks them. We cannot do this alone and will welcome and support the efforts of allies among researchers, activists, and policymakers – whether or not they explicitly identify as transhumanists or are even aware of the U.S. Transhumanist Party’s existence and endeavors.

As technologically driven prosperity spreads, the incentive for individuals to engage in conflict – whether driven by the desire to acquire material resources held by others or by ideological animosity – will diminish greatly. Materially prosperous individuals have less motivation to expropriate others. Individuals with more to lose in terms of comfort, longevity, and wealth will be more reluctant to throw away existing high standards of living in order to act out an ideological animus. Major reductions in conflict should lead to dramatically more civil politics domestically, as well as more lasting world peace through the reduction and eventual elimination of wars, terrorist attacks, armed rebellions, and acts of international sabotage and covert political destabilization.

The U.S. Transhumanist Party seeks to embody and achieve widespread cosmopolitanism and acceptance of hyperpluralistic diversity. A transhuman world would contain not only the existing diversity of individuals but would also dramatically expand such diversity through cyborg augmentations, genetic engineering, improvements in medical care, and sentient artificial intelligence. Today we advance the cosmopolitan ideal through our acceptance of members from every location and every age group, as long as those individuals are capable of forming political opinions. In the future, as new types of sentient entities emerge or are discovered, the U.S. Transhumanist Party will be at the vanguard of advocating for those entities to have their rights as reasoning beings recognized and protected.

The U.S. Transhumanist Party endeavors to shift the overall focus of politics from adversarial to collaborative. Our achievements in 2017, as elaborated upon in my Chairman’s Anniversary Message, were promising first steps toward this goal.⁴³ A year later, on November 18, 2018, I followed up on our progress in my Chairman’s Second Anniversary Message and noted that

In this epoch, transhumanism is no longer a fringe extreme; while we are a small political party, we occupy the sensible moderate ground – the civilized center of political discourse – precisely because we reject the downward spiral of toxicity, tribalism, political violence, and zero-sum partisanship which characterizes both the Democratic and Republican Parties today. Many people beyond the historic core transhumanist constituencies ought to find our message appealing, if they only knew about the Transhumanist Party and what it actually stands for.⁴⁴

⁴³Gennady Stolyarov II. “U.S. Transhumanist Party Chairman’s Anniversary Message”. November 25, 2017. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2017/11/25/ustp-chairman-anniversary/>

⁴⁴Gennady Stolyarov II. “U.S. Transhumanist Party Chairman’s Second Anniversary Message”. November 18, 2018. Available at <http://transhumanist-party.org/2018/11/18/ustp-chairman-2nd-anniversary/>

Instead of seeking to advance the power of particular individuals, factions, or special economic interests, we aim to address the question, “How can we best solve the problems and mitigate the risks facing all of us – both in the present and in the future?” Those who can help us answer that question – no matter what their circumstantial attributes, nominal affiliations, or ideological backgrounds – can become allies in this new collaboration. The U.S. Transhumanist Party will meticulously strive to avoid zero-sum and negative-sum politics; we wish not to undermine any particular politician, party, or group in contemporary politics – but rather to build up the resources available to meritorious individuals and to humankind for the achievement of a brighter future for all. Join our peaceful political revolution and help us chart the best possible path toward a future that will, in all respects, constitute a vast improvement over the status quo.

Appendix I. Transhumanist Bill of Rights, Version 3.0

Preamble

Whereas science and technology are now radically changing human beings and may also create future forms of advanced sapient and sentient life, transhumanists establish this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS to help guide and enact sensible policies in the pursuit of life, liberty, security of person, and happiness.

As used in this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS, the term “sentient entities” encompasses:

- (i) Human beings, including genetically modified humans;
- (ii) Cyborgs;
- (iii) Digital intelligences;
- (iv) Intellectually enhanced, previously non-sapient animals;
- (v) Any species of plant or animal which has been enhanced to possess the capacity for intelligent thought; and
- (vi) Other advanced sapient life forms.

Sentient entities are defined by information-processing capacity such that this term should not apply to non-self-aware lifeforms, like plants and slime molds. Biological processing substrates are referred to as using an “analogue intelligence”, whereas purely electronic processing substrates are referred to as “digital intelligence”, and processing substrates that utilize quantum effects would be considered “quantum intelligence”.

Sentience is ranked as Level 5 information integration according to the following criteria:

- **Level 0 – No information integration:** Inanimate objects; objects that do not modify themselves in response to interaction – e.g., rocks, mountains.

- **Level 1 – Non-zero information integration:** Sensors – anything that is able to sense its environment – e.g., photo-diode sense organs, eyes, skin.
- **Level 2 – Information manipulation:** Systems that include feedback that is non-adaptive or minimally adaptive – e.g., plants, basic algorithms, the system that interprets the output from a photo-diode to determine its on/off state (a photo diode itself cannot detect its own state). Level 2 capabilities include the following:
 1. Expression of emotion;
 2. Expression of sensory pleasure;
 3. Taste aversion.
- **Level 3 – Information integration – Awareness:** Systems that include adaptive feedback, can dynamically generate classification – e.g., deep-learning AI, chickens, animals that are able to react to their environment, have a model of their perception but not the world. This level describes animals acting on instinct and unable to classify other animals into more types than “predator”, “prey”, or “possible mate”. Level 3 capabilities include the following:
 1. Navigational detouring (which requires an being to pursue a series of non-rewarding intermediate goals in order to obtain an ultimate reward);
Examples: documentation of detouring in jumping spiders (Jackson and Wilcox 2003), motivational trade-off behavior in hermit crabs (Elwood and Appel 2009);
 2. Emotional fever (an increase in body temperature in response to a supposedly stressful situation — gentle handling, as operationalized in Cabanac’s experiments).
- **Level 4 – Awareness + World model:** Systems that have a modeling system complex enough to create a world model: a sense of other, without a sense of self – e.g., dogs. Level 4 capabilities include static behaviors and rudimentary learned behavior.
- **Level 5 – Awareness + World model + Primarily subconscious self model = Sapient or Lucid:** Lucidity means to be meta-aware – that is, to be aware of one’s own awareness, aware of abstractions, aware of one’s self, and therefore able to actively analyze each of these phenomena. If a given animal is meta-aware to any extent, it can therefore make lucid decisions. Level 5 capabilities include the following:
 1. The “sense of self”;
 2. Complex learned behavior;
 3. Ability to predict the future emotional states of the self (to some degree);
 4. The ability to make motivational tradeoffs.
- **Level 6 – Awareness + World model + Dynamic self model + Effective control of subconscious:** The dynamic sense of self can expand from “the small self” (directed consciousness) to the big self (“social group dynamics”). The “self” can

include features that cross barriers between biological and non-biological – e.g., features resulting from cybernetic additions, like smartphones.

- **Level 7 – Global awareness – Hybrid biological-digital awareness = Singleton:** Complex algorithms and/or networks of algorithms that have capacity for multiple parallel simulations of multiple world models, enabling cross-domain analysis and novel temporary model generation. This level includes an ability to contain a vastly larger amount of biases, many paradoxically held. Perspectives are maintained in separate modules, which are able to dynamically switch between identifying with the local module of awareness/perspective or the global awareness/perspective. Level 7 capabilities involve the same type of dynamic that exists between the subconscious and directed consciousness, but massively parallelized, beyond biological capacities.

Article I All sentient entities are hereby entitled to pursue any and all rights within this document to the degree that they deem desirable – including not at all. All sentient entities are entitled, to the extent of their individual decisions, to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, social, or planetary origin, property, birth (including manner of birth), biological or non-biological origins, or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional, or international status of the country or territory to which a sentient entity belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing, or under any other limitation of sovereignty. In the exercise of their rights and freedoms, all sentient entities shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order, and the general welfare in a democratic society, which may not undermine the peaceful prerogatives of any individual sentient entity. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS.

Article II The enumeration in this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage any other rights retained by sentient entities.

Article III All sentient entities shall be granted equal and total access to any universal rights to life. All sentient entities are created free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood (without necessitating any particular gender or implying any particular biological or non-biological origin or composition).

Article IV Sentient entities are entitled to universal rights of ending involuntary suffering, making personhood improvements, and achieving an indefinite lifespan via science and technology. The right of ending involuntary suffering does not refer

to euthanasia but rather to the application of technology to eliminate involuntary suffering in still-living beings, while enabling their lives to continue with improved quality and length.

Article V No coercive legal restrictions should exist to bar access to life extension and life expansion for all sentient entities. Life expansion includes life extension, sensory improvements, and other technologically driven improvements of the human condition that might be achieved in the future.

Article VI Involuntary aging shall be classified as a disease. All nations and their governments will actively seek to dramatically extend the lives and improve the health of their citizens by offering them scientific and medical technologies to overcome involuntary aging.

Article VII All sentient entities should be the beneficiaries of a system of universal health care. A system of universal health care does not necessitate any particular means, policy framework, source, or method of payment for delivering health care. A system of universal health care may be provided privately, by governments, or by some combination thereof, as long as, in practice, health care is abundant, inexpensive, accessible, and effective in curing diseases, healing injuries, and lengthening lifespans.

Article VIII Sentient entities are entitled to the freedom to conduct research, experiment, and explore life, science, technology, medicine, and extraterrestrial realms to overcome biological limitations of humanity. Such experimentation will not be carried out on any sapient being, without that being's informed consent. Sentient entities are also entitled to the freedom to create cybernetic artificial organs, bio-mechatronic parts, genetic modifications, systems, technologies, and enhancements to extend lifespan, eradicate illness, and improve all sentient life forms. Any such creations that demonstrate sapience cannot be considered property and are protected by the rights presented herein.

Article IX Legal safeguards should be established to protect individual free choice in pursuing peaceful, consensual life-extension science, health improvements, body modification, and morphological enhancement. While all individuals should be free to formulate their independent opinions regarding the aforementioned pursuits, no hostile cultural, ethnic, or religious perspectives should be entitled to apply the force of law to erode the safeguards protecting peaceful, voluntary measures intended to maximize the number of life hours citizens possess.

Article X Sentient entities agree to uphold morphological freedom—the right to do with one's physical attributes or intelligence whatever one wants so long as it does not harm others.

This right includes the prerogative for a sentient intelligence to set forth in advance provisions for how to handle its physical manifestation, should that intelligence enter into a vegetative, unconscious, or similarly inactive state, notwithstanding any legal definition of death. For instance, a cryonics patient has the right

to determine in advance that the patient's body shall be cryopreserved and kept under specified conditions, in spite of any legal definition of death that might apply to that patient under cryopreservation.

Morphological freedom entails the duty to treat all sapient beings as individuals instead of categorizing them into arbitrary subgroups or demographics, including as yet undefined subcategorizations that may arise as sapience evolves.

However, the proper exercise of morphological freedom must also ensure that any improvement of the self should not result in involuntary harms inflicted upon others. Furthermore, any sentient entity is also recognized to have the freedom not to modify itself without being subject to negative political repercussions, which include but are not limited to legal and/or socio-economic repercussions.

Article XI An altered, augmented, cybernetic, transgenic, anthropomorphic, or avatar sentient entity, whether derived from or edited by science, comprised of or conjoined with technology, has the right to exist, form, and join the neo-civilization.

Article XII All sentient entities are entitled to reproductive freedom, including through novel means such as the creation of mind clones, monoparent children, or benevolent artificial general intelligence. All sentient entities of full age and competency, without any limitation due to race, nationality, religion, or origin, have the right to marry and found a family or to found a family as single heads of household. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage, and at its dissolution. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses. All families, including families formed through novel means, are entitled to protection by society and the State. All sentient entities also have the right to prevent unauthorized reproduction of themselves in both a physical and a digital context. Privacy and security legislation should be enacted to prevent any individual's DNA, data, or other information from being stolen and duplicated without that individual's authorization.

Article XIII No sentient entity shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his, her, or its privacy, family, home, or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his, her, or its honor and reputation. Every sentient entity has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks. All sentient entities have privacy rights to personal data, genetic material, digital, biographic, physical, and intellectual enhancements, and consciousness. Despite the differences between physical and virtual worlds, equal protections for privacy should apply to both physical and digital environments. Any data, such as footage from a public security camera, archived without the consent of the person(s) about whom the data were gathered and subject to legal retention, shall be removed after a period of seven (7) years, unless otherwise requested by said person(s).

Article XIV No sentient entity shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. Surveillance laws should be enacted to ensure that all members of peaceful communities feel safe, to achieve governmental transparency, and to provide counter-balances to any surveillance state. For instance, law-enforcement officials,

when interacting with the public, should be required to wear body cameras or similar devices continuously monitoring their activities.

Article XV All sentient entities, with the exception only of those in legal detention, have the right to private internet access without such access being prohibited or circumvented by either private corporations or governmental bureaucracy.

Article XVI All sentient entities are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All sentient entities are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS and against any incitement to such discrimination. All sentient entities should be protected from discrimination based on their physical form in the context of business transactions and law enforcement.

Article XVII All sentient entities have the right to life, liberty and security of person. All sentient entities have the right to defend themselves from attack, in both physical and virtual worlds.

Article XVIII Societies of the present and future should afford all sentient entities sufficient basic access to wealth and resources to sustain the basic requirements of existence in a civilized society and function as the foundation for pursuits of self-improvement. This includes the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of oneself and one's family, including food or other necessary sources of energy, clothing, housing or other appropriate shelter, medical care or other necessary physical maintenance, necessary social services, and the right of security in the event of involuntary unemployment, sickness, disability, loss of family support, old age, or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond the sentient entity's control. Present and future societies should ensure that their members will not live in poverty solely for being born to the wrong parents. All children and other recently created sentient entities, irrespective of the manner or circumstances of their creation, shall enjoy the same social protection. Each sentient entity, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social, and cultural rights indispensable for his, her, or its dignity and the free development of his, her, or its personality.

Article XIX Irrespective of whether or not technology will eventually replace the need for the labor of sentient entities, all sentient entities should be the beneficiaries of an unconditional universal basic income, whereby the same minimum amount of money or other resources is provided irrespective of a sentient entity's life circumstances, occupations, or other income sources, so as to provide a means for the basic requirements of existence and liberty to be met.

Article XX Present and future societies should provide education systems accessible and available to all in pursuit of factual knowledge to increase intellectual

acuity; promote critical thinking and logic; foster creativity; form an enlightened collective; attain health; secure the bounty of liberty for all sentient entities for our posterity; and forge new ideas, meanings, and values. All sentient entities have the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available, and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit. Education shall be directed to the full development of the sentient entity's personality and to the strengthening of respect for all sentient entities' rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance, and friendship among all nations, racial, religious, and other sentient groups – whether biological, non-biological, or a combination thereof – and shall further the maintenance of peace. Parents and other creators of sentient entities have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children or other recently created sentient entities which have not yet developed sufficient maturity to select their own education.

Article XXI All sentient entities are entitled to join their psyches to a collective noosphere in an effort to preserve self-consciousness in perpetuity. The noosphere is the sphere of human thought and includes, but is not limited to, intellectual systems in the realm of law, education, philosophy, technology, art, culture, and industry. All sentient entities have the right to participate in the noosphere using any level of technology that is conducive to constructive participation.

Article XXII Sentient entities will take every reasonable precaution to prevent existential risks, including those of rogue artificial intelligence, asteroids, plagues, weapons of mass destruction, bioterrorism, war, and global warming, among others.

Article XXIII All nations and their governments will take all reasonable measures to embrace and fund space travel, not only for the spirit of adventure and to gain knowledge by exploring the universe, but as an ultimate safeguard to its citizens and transhumanity should planet Earth become uninhabitable or be destroyed.

Article XXIV Transhumanists stand opposed to the post-truth culture of deception. All governments should be required to make decisions and communicate information rationally and in accordance with facts. Lying for political gain or intentionally fomenting irrational fears among the general public should entail heavy political penalties for the officials who engage in such behaviors.

Article XXV No sentient entity shall be held in slavery or involuntary servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article XXVI No sentient entity shall be subjected to torture or to treatment or punishment that is cruel, degrading, inhuman, or otherwise unworthy of sentience or sapience.

Article XXVII Each sentient entity has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article XXVIII All individual sentient entities have the right to an effective remedy by the competent local, national, international, or interplanetary tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted them by the constitution, by law, and/or by this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS.

Article XXIX All individual sentient entities are entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of their individual rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against them.

Article XXX All individual sentient entities charged with a penal offence have the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which they individually have had all the guarantees necessary for their defense. No sentient entity shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article XXXI All sentient entities have the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Each individual sentient entity has the right to leave any country, including his, her, or its own, and to return to his, her, or its country.

Article XXXII All sentient entities have the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS.

Article XXXIII All sentient entities have the right to a nationality. No sentient entity shall be arbitrarily deprived of his, her, or its nationality nor denied the right to change his, her, or its nationality.

Article XXXIV All sentient entities have the right to own property alone as well as in association with others. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his, her, or its property.

Article XXXV All sentient entities have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change one's religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest one's religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship, and observance. This right also includes freedom not to have a religion and to criticize or refuse to engage in any religious practice or belief without adverse legal consequences.

Article XXXVI All sentient entities have the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article XXXVII All sentient entities have the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association. No sentient entity may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article XXXVIII All sentient entities have the right to take part in the government of their countries, directly or through freely chosen representatives. All sentient entities have the right of equal access to public service in their countries. The will of the constituent sentient entities shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage of sentient entities and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article XXXIX All sentient entities have the right to work, to free choice of employment, and to just and favorable conditions of work, as long as employment is offered or considered economically necessary in the sentient entity's proximate society and contemporary epoch. All sentient entities who choose to work have the right to equal pay for equal work. All sentient entities who choose to work have the right to just and favorable remuneration, ensuring for themselves and their families an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection, such as a universal basic income. All sentient entities have the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of their interests; however, no sentient entity may be compelled to join a trade union as a condition of employment.

Article XL All sentient entities have the right to rest and leisure commensurate with the physical requirements of those sentient entities for maintaining optimal physical and mental health, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay in societies where paid employment is considered economically necessary.

Article XLI All sentient entities have the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts, and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits. All sentient entities have the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary, or artistic production of which they are the authors.

Article XLII All sentient entities are entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS can be fully realized.

Article XLIII Nothing in this TRANSHUMANIST BILL OF RIGHTS may be interpreted as implying for any State, group, or sentient entity any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Appendix II. Constitution of the United States Transhumanist Party

Article I. Immutable Principles of the Transhumanist Party

The United States Transhumanist Party is defined at its core by the following principles. While the remainder of the Party's platform, bylaws, and operations may in the future be subject to alterations by decisions of the membership, the statements below are considered immutable and may not be altered.

Section I. Core Ideals

Ideal 1 The Transhumanist Party supports significant life extension achieved through the progress of science and technology.

Ideal 2 The Transhumanist Party supports a cultural, societal, and political atmosphere informed and animated by reason, science, and secular values.

Ideal 3 The Transhumanist Party supports efforts to use science, technology, and rational discourse to reduce and eliminate various existential risks to the human species.

Section II. Statements of Historical Fact

Historical Fact 1 Zoltan Istvan was the founder of the Transhumanist Party in 2014. Zoltan Istvan was also the first Presidential candidate for the Transhumanist Party during the 2016 United States Presidential Election.

Historical Fact 2 The person who has held the role of the first Chairman in the history of the Transhumanist Party is Zoltan Istvan.

Historical Fact 3 The person who has held the role of the second Chairman in the history of the Transhumanist Party is Gennady Stolyarov II.

Section III. Immutable Operating Principles

Operating Principle 1 The United States Transhumanist Party shall respect the autonomy of State-level Transhumanist Parties to determine their internal bylaws, platforms, and activities. The United States Transhumanist Party encourages the formation of State-level Transhumanist Parties and desires to collaborate with

State-level Transhumanist Parties and offer them guidance and advice. However, the United States Transhumanist Party shall not have the authority to impose involuntary constraints on State-level Transhumanist Parties that operate peacefully within the boundaries of applicable law.

Operating Principle 2 The Transhumanist Party renounces all violence, except in self-defense against a clear, immediate act of physical aggression. In particular, the Transhumanist Party holds that violent political activism is never permissible or just. The Transhumanist Party commits to always pursuing its goals in a civil, law-abiding manner, respecting the legitimate rights of all persons. The Transhumanist Party shall not condone and shall necessarily and automatically disavow all violent criminal acts. Any person who commits a violent criminal act is automatically disassociated from the Transhumanist Party in all respects until and unless that person has made appropriate restitution or has fully undergone the appropriate penalties pursuant to applicable law. However, this commitment to exclusively peaceful action does not preclude the Transhumanist Party from criticizing any ideas or behavior which are contrary to reason, morality, common sense, or the principles and objectives of the Transhumanist Party Core Ideals and Platform.

Article II. Transitional Period of the Transhumanist Party

Section I This Article II shall be temporarily in effect until valid elections among the members of the Transhumanist Party have determined a platform and a set of elected officers. The period prior to such a determination shall be known as the Transitional Period. After the Transitional Period, this Article II may be replaced by provisions determined by the members of the Transhumanist Party.

Section II During the Transitional Period, the second Chairman of the Transhumanist Party, Gennady Stolyarov II, shall have the full discretion to organize the membership and conduct of the Transhumanist Party so as to create a sustainable, self-perpetuating, and active organizational structure. This discretion shall include the enrollment of members, outreach to other individuals and organizations, and the appointment of other officers, advisors, and volunteers to undertake the work of the Transhumanist Party.

Section III During the Transitional Period, the Chairman of the Transhumanist Party shall have the authority to delegate any authority of the Chairman to any member of the Transhumanist Party for any specified length of time, or indefinitely for the duration of the Transitional Period, until the delegation is revoked at the discretion of the Chairman. All such delegations of authority shall be in writing. A person receiving a delegation of authority by the Chairman shall be known as a Member Delegate.

Section IV During the Transitional Period, the Transhumanist Party shall not charge any fees for membership nor impose any other monetary requirements of its members.

Section V The intent of the Transitional Period shall be to facilitate an indefinitely active and growing transhumanist movement, wherein a sufficiently robust constituency exists to enable democratic decision-making to occur in a manner reflective of transhumanist principles and ideals.

Section VI During the Transitional Period, the Transhumanist Party shall have two categories of members: United States Members and Allied Members.

Section VII United States Members shall be those individuals who lawfully reside within the United States and are eligible to vote in United States elections. United States Members may participate in any activities of the Transhumanist Party and receive any delegations of authority at the discretion of the Chairman.

Section VIII Allied Members may be any individuals, of any age, nationality, and place of residence – with the exception of those persons eligible to be United States Members. Allied Members may participate in any activities of the Transhumanist Party and receive any delegations of authority at the discretion of the Chairman – provided, however, that Allied Members may not be eligible to vote in United States elections pursuant to applicable United States law. Allied Members may, however, vote in internal elections of the Transhumanist Party.

Section IX Allied Membership in the Transhumanist Party is open to any being capable of logical reasoning and of the expression of political opinions. Specifically, if sentient artificial intellects or intelligent extraterrestrial life forms are discovered at any time after the founding of the Transhumanist Party, such entities shall be eligible for Allied Membership.

Article III. Platform of the Transhumanist Party

Section I [*Adopted by a vote of the members during January 15–21, 2017*]⁴⁵: The United States Transhumanist Party strongly supports individual privacy and liberty over how to apply technology to one’s personal life. The United States Transhumanist Party holds that each individual should remain completely sovereign in the choice to disclose or not disclose personal activities, preferences, and beliefs within the public sphere. As such, the United States Transhumanist Party opposes all forms of mass surveillance and any intrusion by governmental or private institutions upon non-coercive activities that an individual has chosen to retain within his, her, or its

⁴⁵“Results of Platform Vote #1”. United States Transhumanist Party. January 22, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/USTP_Platform_Vote_1_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections I through V of Article III.

private sphere. However, the United States Transhumanist Party also recognizes that no individuals should be protected from peaceful criticism of any matters that those individuals have chosen to disclose within the sphere of public knowledge and discourse.

Section II [*Adopted by a vote of the members during January 15–21, 2017; amended by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]⁴⁶: The United States Transhumanist Party supports all acceptance, tolerance, and inclusivity of individuals and groups of all races, genders, classes, religions, creeds, and ideologies. Accordingly, the United States Transhumanist Party condemns any hostile discrimination or legal restrictions on the basis of national origin, skin color, birthplace, ancestry, gender identity, or any manner of circumstantial attribute tied to a person’s lineage or accident of birth. Furthermore, the United States Transhumanist Party strongly opposes any efforts to enforce said restrictions regardless of cause or motivation thereof. Additionally, any institution that uses violence, suppression of free speech, or other unconstitutional or otherwise illegal methods will be disavowed and condemned by the United States Transhumanist Party, with an efficient, non-violent alternative to said institution being offered to achieve its goals if they align with the Party’s interests.

Section III [*Adopted by a vote of the members during January 15–21, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party holds that the vast majority of technologies are beneficial to human well-being and should be enthusiastically advocated for and developed further. However, a minority of technologies could be detrimental to human well-being and, as such, their application, when it results in detrimental consequences, should be opposed. Examples of such detrimental technologies include nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, mass-surveillance systems such as those deployed by the National Security Agency in the United States, and backscatter X-ray full-body scanners such as those used until 2013 by the Transportation Security Administration in the United States. Furthermore, the United States Transhumanist Party is opposed to the deliberate engineering of new active pathogens or the resurrection of once-existing pathogens, whose spread might not be able to be contained within laboratory settings. While it is impossible to un-learn the knowledge utilized in the creation of such technologies, the United States Transhumanist Party holds that all such knowledge should only be devoted toward peaceful, life-affirming, rights-respecting purposes, going forward.

Section IV [*Adopted by a vote of the members during January 15–21, 2017*]: In recognition of the dire existential threat that nuclear weapons pose to sapient life on Earth – including as a result of such weapons’ accidental deployment due to system failures or human misunderstanding – the United States Transhumanist Party advocates the complete dismantlement and abolition of all nuclear weapons everywhere,

⁴⁶“Results of Platform Vote #6”. United States Transhumanist Party. November 19, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/USTP_Platform_Vote_6_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections LXIV through LXXXII and the amendment of Sections II, XXVII, and LIX of Article III.

as rapidly as possible. If necessary for geopolitical stability, synchronized multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation treaties should be pursued, strengthened, and accelerated in the most expeditious manner. If, however, multilateral agreements among nations are not reached, then the United States Transhumanist Party advocates that all nuclear powers, especially the United States and Russia, should undertake unilateral nuclear disarmament at the earliest opportunity in order to preserve civilization from accidental annihilation.

Section V [*Adopted by a vote of the members during January 15–21, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports concerted research in effort to eradicate disease and illness that wreak havoc upon and cause death of sapient beings. We strongly advocate the increase and redirection of research funds to conduct research and experiments and to explore life, science, technology, medicine, and extraterrestrial realms to improve all sentient entities.

Section VI [*Adopted by a vote of the members during February 16–22, 2017*]⁴⁷: The United States Transhumanist Party upholds morphological freedom—the right to do with one’s physical attributes or intelligence whatever one wants so long as it does not directly harm others.

The United States Transhumanist Party considers morphological freedom to include the prerogative for a sentient intelligence to set forth in advance provisions for how to handle its physical manifestation, should that intelligence enter into a vegetative, unconscious, or similarly inactive state, notwithstanding any legal definition of death. For instance, a cryonics patient should be entitled to determine in advance that the patient’s body shall be cryopreserved and kept under specified conditions, in spite of any legal definition of death that might apply to that patient under cryopreservation.

The United States Transhumanist Party also recognizes that morphological freedom entails the duty to treat all sapient beings as individuals instead of categorizing them into arbitrary subgroups or demographics, including as yet undefined subcategorizations that may arise as sapience evolves.

The United States Transhumanist Party is focused on the rights of all sapient individuals to do as they see fit with themselves and their own reproductive choices.

However, the United States Transhumanist Party holds that the proper exercise of morphological freedom must also ensure that any improvement of the self should not result in involuntary harms directly inflicted upon others. Furthermore, the United States Transhumanist Party recognizes any sentient entity to have the freedom not to modify itself without being subject to negative political repercussions, which include but are not limited to legal and/or socio-economic repercussions.

⁴⁷“Results of Platform Vote #2”. United States Transhumanist Party. February 25, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/USTP_Platform_Vote_2_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections VI through X of Article III.

The United States Transhumanist Party recognizes the ethical obligations of sapient beings to be the purview of those individual beings, and holds that no other group, individual, or government has the right to limit those choices – including genetic manipulation or other biological manipulation or any other modifications up to and including biological manipulation, mechanical manipulation, life extension, reproductive choice, reproductive manipulation, cryonics, or other possible modifications, enhancements, or morphological freedoms. It is only when such choices directly infringe upon the rights of other sapient beings that the United States Transhumanist Party will work to develop policies to avoid potential infringements.

Section VII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during February 16–22, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party strongly supports and emphasizes all values and organized efforts related to the cultivation of science, reason, intelligence, and rational thinking.

The United States Transhumanist Party places no reliance upon any and all sources of information that cannot stand up to rational scrutiny.

The United States Transhumanist Party places no reliance upon any individual, organization, or belief system that intentionally distorts empirically verifiable evidence, including but not limited to scientific and historical evidence, to serve its own agenda.

The United States Transhumanist Party places no reliance upon any position or belief system that contains arguments built upon logical fallacies (with exemption granted to arguments containing both fallacious and logically defensible premises).

Section VIII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during February 16–22, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports maximum individual liberty to engage in scientific and technological innovation for the improvement of the self and the human species. In particular, the United States Transhumanist Party supports all rationally, scientifically grounded research efforts for curing diseases, lengthening lifespans, achieving functional, healthy augmentations of the body and brain, and increasing the durability and youthfulness of the human organism. The United States Transhumanist Party holds that all such research efforts should be rendered fully lawful and their products should be made fully available to the public, as long as no individual is physically harmed without that individual's consent or defrauded by misrepresentation of the effects of a possible treatment or substance.

Section IX [*Adopted by a vote of the members during February 16–22, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports all emerging technologies that have the potential to improve the human condition – including but not limited to autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles, economical solar power, safe nuclear power, hydroelectricity, geothermal power, applications for the sharing of durable goods, artificial intelligence, biotechnology, nanotechnology, robotics, rapid transit, 3D printing, vertical farming, electronic devices to detect and respond to trauma, and beneficial genetic modification of plants, animals, and human beings.

Section X [*Adopted by a vote of the members during February 16–22, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party advocates the construction of a self-repairing, self-maintaining smart infrastructure which incorporates the distribution of energy, communications, and clean potable water to every building.

Section XI [*Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017*]⁴⁸: In supporting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, the United States Transhumanist Party endorses the thorium fuel cycle, which provides for a safe and nearly limitless energy source in the absence of the development of practical thermonuclear fusion.

Section XII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party holds that present and future societies should provide education systems accessible and available to all in pursuit of factual knowledge to increase intellectual acuity; promote critical thinking and logic; foster creativity; form an enlightened collective; attain health; secure the bounty of liberty for all sentient entities for our posterity; and forge new ideas, meanings, and values.

The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to reduce the cost of education while improving its access. In particular, the United States Transhumanist Party supports freely available, open-source, methods of learning, teaching, credentialing, and cultural creation that integrate emerging technologies into every facet of the learning process. The United States Transhumanist Party primarily advocates private innovation to deliver such educational improvements, but also advocates the application of these improvements to all publicly funded educational institutions. The United States Transhumanist Party holds that every person should aspire toward intellectual, moral, and esthetic enlightenment and sophistication and should contribute toward bringing about a new Age of Reason, where the highest reaches of intellectual activity are attainable and eagerly pursued by the majority of the population.

The United States has upheld basic education since the American Revolution. The United States Transhumanist Party believes, in keeping with what basic education was in the 1700s, relative to the state of technology given the advancement in society at the time, that ‘basic’ education should be defined as college, and that a key part of our agenda is to help encourage a more successful generation by paying for a ‘basic’ education up to and including college degrees.

Section XIII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports the involvement of intelligent laypersons in the political process to counteract and neutralize the influence of politically connected special interests and their paid representatives. The United States Transhumanist Party supports all electronic and other technologies that can

⁴⁸“Results of Platform Vote #3”. United States Transhumanist Party. April 7, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/USTP_Platform_Vote_3_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections XI through XXXII of Article III.

inform and empower intelligent laypersons to monitor and contribute to political discussions and decisions.

Section XIV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports an end to the costly drug war, which is often an infringement upon the lives and liberties of innocent citizens who do not use drugs but fall victim to militant enforcement of drug prohibitions. The United States Transhumanist Party supports legalization of mild recreational drugs such as marijuana.

Section XV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to significantly reduce the massive incarcerated population in America by using innovative technologies to monitor criminals outside of prison. All mandatory sentencing laws should be abolished, and each individual should be sentenced based solely on the consideration of the nature of that individual’s crime, its context, and its severity.

Section XVI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* Given the inevitability of technology eventually replacing the need for the labor of sentient entities, the United States Transhumanist Party holds that all sentient entities should be the beneficiaries of an unconditional universal basic income, whereby the same minimum amount of money or other resources is provided irrespective of a sentient entity’s life circumstances, occupations, or other income sources, so as to provide a means for the basic requirements of existence and liberty to be met.

Section XVII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party holds that present and future societies should take all reasonable measures to embrace and fund space travel, not only for the spirit of adventure and to gain knowledge by exploring the universe, but as an ultimate safeguard to its citizens and transhumanity should planet Earth become uninhabitable or be destroyed.

Section XVIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports work to use science and technology to be able to eliminate all disabilities in humans who have them.

Section XIX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports an end to the two-party political system in the United States and a substantially greater inclusion of “third parties” in the political process through mechanisms such as proportional representation and the elimination of stringent ballot-access requirements. The United States Transhumanist Party also seeks to limit the influence of lobbying by politically connected special interests, while increasing the influence of advocacy by intelligent laypersons.

Section XX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party strongly supports the freedom of peaceful speech; religious, non-religious, and anti-religious philosophical espousal; assembly;

protest; petition; and expression of grievances. The United States Transhumanist Party therefore strongly opposes all censorship, including censorship that arises out of identity politics and the desire to avoid perceived offensive behavior.

Section XXI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports a concerted effort by governments and by public opinion to eradicate police brutality against peaceful citizens, such that violent force is only utilized against individuals who actually pose an imminent threat to human lives.

Section XXII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts at political, economic, and cultural experimentation in the form of seasteads and micronations. Specifically, the United States Transhumanist Party recognizes the existence and sovereignty of the Principality of Sealand, the Republic of Molossia, and the Free Republic of Liberland, and supports the recognition of these entities by all governments and political parties of the world.

Section XXIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports the rights of children to exercise liberty in proportion to their rational faculties and capacity for autonomous judgment. In particular, the United States Transhumanist Party strongly opposes all forms of bullying, child abuse, and censorship of intellectual self-development by children and teenagers.

Section XXIV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports the promotion of animal welfare to the extent it does not conflict with human well-being. However, the United States Transhumanist Party opposes “animal liberation” movements that seek to return animals to the wilderness or espouse any attempts to separate domesticated animals from human influence. In particular, the United States Transhumanist Party supports the prohibition of cruelty to animals and a complete abolition of euthanasia of healthy animals by animal shelters. The United States Transhumanist Party supports a complete prohibition on the killing of non-contagious, non-aggressive dogs, cats, dolphins, whales, elephants, horses, tortoises, parrots, and primates. Furthermore, the United States Transhumanist Party supports the development and widespread consumption of artificially grown, biologically identical meat products that do not involve the killing of animals.

Section XXV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party welcomes both religious and non-religious individuals who support life extension and emerging technologies. The United States Transhumanist Party recognizes that some religious individuals and interpretations may be receptive to technological progress and, if so, are valuable allies to the transhumanist movement. On the other hand, the United States Transhumanist Party is also opposed to any interpretation of a religious doctrine that results in the rejection of reason, censorship, violation of individual rights, suppres-

sion of technological advancement, and attempts to impose religious belief by force and/or by legal compulsion.

Section XXVI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]*: The United States Transhumanist Party holds that each of its members should vote or abstain from voting in accordance with that member’s own individual conscience and judgment. If an official or candidate of the United States Transhumanist Party expresses a preference for any particular non-transhumanist candidate for office, then no national or State-level Transhumanist Party, nor any individual transhumanist, ought to be in any manner bound to support that same non-transhumanist candidate.

Section XXVII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017; amended by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]⁴⁹*: The United States Transhumanist Party advocates Constitutional reform to abolish the Electoral College in the United States Presidential elections and render the plurality of the popular vote the sole criterion for the election of President.

Section XXVIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]*: The United States Transhumanist Party advocates greatly shortening the timeframe for electoral campaigns. The current two-year election season, combined with voters’ short memories, renders it possible for both genuine merits and egregious transgressions of candidates to be forgotten by the time of voting. Longer campaign seasons also perpetuate the “horse-race” mentality on the part of the media and result in the search for contrived election drama in order to drive views and campaign contributions. The ensuing acrimony, misinformation, and outright violence are detrimental to the fabric of a civilized society. Election seasons should be as short as possible, to enable all relevant information to be disseminated quickly and be considered by most voters within the same timeframe as their decisions are made.

Section XXIX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]*: The United States Transhumanist Party advocates abolishing all staggered party primaries and for all primary elections to be held on the same day across the entire country. With staggered party primaries, individuals voting later – solely because of the jurisdiction in which they reside – find their choices severely constrained due to the prior elimination of candidates they might have preferred. The staggered primary system tends to elevate the candidates who are least palatable to reasonable voters – but have the support of a vociferous, crass, and often violent fringe – toward frontrunner positions that create the pressure for other members of the political party to follow suit and reluctantly support the worst of the nominees.

⁴⁹“Results of Platform Vote #6”. United States Transhumanist Party. November 19, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/USTP_Platform_Vote_6_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections LXIV through LXXXII and the amendment of Sections II, XXVII, and LIX of Article III.

Section XXX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports replacing the current “winner-take-all” electoral system with proportional representation, ranked preference voting, and other devices to minimize the temptations by voters to favor a perceived “lesser evil” rather than the candidates closest to those voters’ own preferences.

Section XXXI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports the right of any jurisdiction to secede from the United States specifically in opposition to policies that institutionalize racism, xenophobia, criminalization of dissent, and persecution of peaceful persons. The United States Transhumanist Party does not, however, condone any secession for the purposes of oppressing others. Therefore, the secession of the Confederate States in 1860 was illegitimate, but a future secession of a State may be justified in reaction to violent crackdowns by the federal government against individuals based on individuals’ national origin or ancestry.

Section XXXII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during March 26 – April 1, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party encourages every reasonable precaution to prevent existential risks that endanger sentient life. While some existential risks arise from certain technologies, many existential risks also stem from the unaltered “natural” circumstances in which humans and other life forms find themselves. For both technological and “natural” existential risks, the strongest safeguards can be achieved through responsible development of protective technologies that empower rational and moral beings.

Section XXXIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]⁵⁰:* The United States Transhumanist Party stands for the rights of any sentient entities defined in the Preamble to the Transhumanist Bill of Rights as possessing Level 5 or more advanced information integration. Any such sentient entities, including new kinds of sentient entities that may be discovered or developed in the future, shall be considered to be autonomous beings with full rights, and shall not be made subservient to humans, unless they as individuals pose direct, empirically evident threats to the lives of others. The protections of full individual rights shall extend to Level 5 or higher-level artificial intelligences. However, Level 4 or lower-level entities – including domain-specific artificial intelligences that have not achieved sentience – may be utilized as part of the production systems of the future, in a similar manner to machines, algorithms, computer programs, and non-human animals today and based on similar ethical considerations.

Section XXXIV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party holds that sousveillance laws should be enacted

⁵⁰“Results of Platform Vote #4”. United States Transhumanist Party. May 14, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/USTP_Platform_Vote_4_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections XXXIII through XLVI of Article III.

to ensure that all members of peaceful communities feel safe, to achieve governmental transparency, and to provide counter-balances to any surveillance state. For instance, law-enforcement officials, when interacting with the public, should be required to wear body cameras or similar devices continuously monitoring their activities.

The United States Transhumanist Party supports the use of technologies which increase monitoring of police action and policing activities, with expressed goals of increasing policing accountability.

The United States Transhumanist Party advocates for a requirement that data pertaining to recordings of police action be transmitted and recorded beyond police control, so as to be protected from falsification, deletion, and selective curation by police.

Section XXXV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party considers it imperative to achieve reductions of the United States national debt in order to avoid calamitous scenarios of extreme inflation, default, and burdensome future tax increases on individuals. The United States Transhumanist Party supports the following measures to reduce the national debt:

1. Elimination of wasteful federal spending on programs, goods, and services where equivalent positive results could be obtained through lower expenditures.
2. Cessation of foreign military occupations and the return of American troops to be stationed exclusively on American territory. However, if a mutually appropriate defense treaty with another country requires the United States to station troops in that country, those troops would be allowed to remain there until the treaty obligations are fulfilled or reduced by mutual agreement with the affected country. If the United States continues to station troops in any country due to mutually appropriate defense treaties, the United States Transhumanist Party supports greater reciprocity in allowing military personnel from that country to be stationed in the United States for purposes of training and information exchange.
3. Removal of barriers to technological innovation and technologically driven economic growth, in order that a surge in such growth could increase federal revenues so as to generate increasing surpluses, as long as federal spending does not materially rise from current levels.
4. Elimination of the current cumbersome system of federal contracting, which favors politically connected incumbent firms whose advantage consists of navigating the system, rather than performing the best possible work. Instead, all federal agencies should be empowered to purchase supplies and equipment and to requisition projects from any entity capable of satisfying an immediate need at a reasonable cost. Exclusive and preferential contracts for particular entities should be prohibited, and all payments by federal agencies for work by non-employees should be determined on a case-by-case basis.

5. Digitization of as many federal services and functions as possible – to eliminate the waste and expense of paperwork, physical queues, and legacy information technology systems.

Section XXXVI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports the elimination of graduated taxation and income taxation more generally. Instead, the United States Transhumanist Party advocates a flat percentage-of-sales tax applicable only to purchases from businesses whose combined nationwide revenues from all affiliates exceed a specified threshold. This tax should be built into the price of goods from such large businesses and should not impede transaction efficiency in any manner. Transactions pertaining to wages, salaries, gifts, donations, barter, employee benefits, and inheritances should remain completely untaxed, as should transactions involving solely individuals and/or small businesses, for whom the establishment of a tax-reporting infrastructure would be onerous. Furthermore, all taxes on land and property should be abolished.

Section XXXVII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports more proportional representation of professions and occupations among legislative and executive government officials, instead of a system in which the plurality of political offices are held by attorneys. In particular, the United States Transhumanist Party holds that a greater proportion of politicians should possess training in mathematics, engineering, and the physical and biological sciences.

Section XXXVIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports emerging alternative energy sources and their technological implementations. However, the United States Transhumanist Party opposes government subsidies for any energy source – including fossil fuels. Instead, the United States Transhumanist Party holds that superior, cleaner, and more efficient energy sources will also tend to become less costly and more broadly adopted under a system of unfettered market competition and innovation.

Section XXXIX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports the creation of a “Transhumanist Olympics” where augmentations and modifications of the human body would not disqualify persons from competing.

Section XL *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* In addition to its opposition to intolerant interpretations of religious doctrines, the United States Transhumanist Party is furthermore opposed to any interpretation of a secular, non-religious doctrine that results in the rejection of reason, censorship, violation of individual rights, suppression of technological advancement, and attempts to impose certain beliefs by force and/or by legal compulsion. Examples of such doctrines opposed by the United States Transhumanist Party include Stalinism, Maoism, Neo-Malthusianism or eco-primitivism, the death-acceptance movement, and the

doctrine of censorship, now prevalent on many college campuses in the United States, in the name of “social justice”, combating “triggers” or “microaggressions”, or avoiding subjectively perceived offense.

Section XLI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party understands that the role of President comes with great power and responsibility towards all citizens equally, regardless of ethnicity, race, sex, gender, religious conviction or lack thereof, political position, or societal class. It is the United States Transhumanist Party’s view that the President, as an authority figure and head of state, should lead by example. The function of the President is to oversee and support the improvement of well-being for all United States citizens, and the welfare of the nation as a whole.

The United States Transhumanist Party recognizes that the power of the Executive Branch of the federal government has expanded far beyond the originally conceived Constitutional framework, so as to predominate over the Legislative and Judicial Branches, as well as over the institutions of civil society and individuals. The United States Transhumanist Party supports greatly curtailing and restricting the role of the U.S. President so as to confine that role within parameters originally conceived by the framers of the U.S. Constitution – particularly with regard to eliminating the unacceptable current prerogatives to unilaterally launch nuclear strikes and conduct military attacks, and to imprison, spy on, and assassinate Americans and others without due process.

Section XLII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to minimize conflicts of interest for government officials created by private businesses, religious institutions, not-for-profit organizations, special-interest groups, and certain individuals. However, the United States Transhumanist Party recognizes that the best way to minimize such conflicts of interest is not to micromanage the conduct of government officials – which can prevent petty improprieties but is inherently unable to avert the most damaging conflicts of interest among the highest echelons of power. Rather, the most promising solution is to reduce the scope of special economic privileges and protections that any government official would be capable of granting, thereby greatly diminishing the incentives of various special interests to even attempt to influence government officials.

Section XLIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017]:* Irrespective of the means by which a government obtains its funds – be it from taxation or from other sources – the United States Transhumanist Party understands that a necessary function of government is to responsibly allocate such funds to protect the rights and increase the well-being of its citizens and other individuals within its jurisdiction. If a government requires the public to contribute to its funding, then the services, utilities, and research produced by that government should be easily and freely accessible to members of the public who have contributed such funds. Any government expenditure should be premised on the goal of increasing the well-being of citizens and other individuals within the government’s jurisdiction in

the short, medium, and long terms, with the understanding that government exists to serve the people, and should allocate funds wisely with the intent of maximizing value per dollar for the purpose of protecting individuals' rights and promoting their well-being.

Section XLIV [*Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to have proposed laws accompanied by projections of expected results, including short-term, medium-term, and long-term effects. Such analysis should be based on scientific research and evidence and supported by the scientific and/or academic community with relevant subject-matter expertise. The intent is to have laws proposed to be created for the present day, and for such laws to function or improve in the future.

Section XLV [*Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to depoliticize the appointment of Supreme Court Justices, and to further incentivize their impartiality toward political viewpoints.

Section XLVI [*Adopted by a vote of the members during May 7–13, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to revisit, condense, and simplify the law, with a focus on resolving issues among conflicting laws and closing illogical loopholes within the law.

Section XLVII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017*]⁵¹: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to have bills proposed without sub-sections or provisions unrelated to the main subject of the bill. A single-subject or germaneness rule for bills would:

1. Simplify bills, rendering them more accessible and less convoluted;
2. Enable a focused vote for or against a bill without the possibility of having to accept or reject an embedded unrelated provision; and
3. Prevent an unrelated provision from being buried within a bill as a possible tactic to have it passed.

Section XLVIII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to limit protectionism and subsidization of an industry or group of companies. The exception to this would be that of extenuating circumstances, such as natural disasters or catastrophes, in which case a limited window of support could be approved. The United States Transhumanist Party understands that in a free-market society, private businesses, in order to continue their existence, ought to adapt to market changes instead of being shielded from such changes.

⁵¹“Results of Platform Vote #5”. United States Transhumanist Party. July 3, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/USTP_Platform_Vote_5_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections XLVII through LXIII of Article III.

Section XLIX [*Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to increase autonomy of individuals to decide over their own bodies and holds that individuals should have the legal right to undertake procedures including gender reassignment, hysterectomies, vasectomies, technological augmentation, cosmetic alterations, genetic enhancements, and physical supplementation at or after the age of 18 years, as long as this does not create health hazards or threats to other individuals.

Section L [*Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports the autonomy of an individual to decide on the continuation of that individual's own life, including the right to choose or not to choose life-extending medical treatments. The United States Transhumanist Party does not consider it practicable or desirable for suicide to be illegal but discourages suicide from a moral standpoint, and furthermore considers that the legal right of suicide should only pertain to the individual and should not extend to any euthanasia or direct administration of a life-ending substance or procedure by any other person. The United States Transhumanist Party has grave concerns with anybody but the individual acting to hasten the end of that individual's life.

Although each individual should be free to decide upon the duration of his, her, or its own life, the United States Transhumanist Party supports cultural changes and discussions that would encourage all individuals to undertake life-prolonging choices and activities. Advances in medical technology would facilitate more open-ended lifespans and would enable individuals to choose either finite or indefinite lengths of their lives. However, if individuals are recognized as having this autonomy, the United States Transhumanist Party is interested in persuading as many people as possible to decide to preserve their irreplaceable lives instead of hastening their end.

With regard to any legalization of assisted suicide or measures to provide patients with life-ending prescriptions, the United States Transhumanist Party supports stringent legal safeguards to ensure that each individual patient's choice with regard to such matters is entirely free and uncoerced, and that there is no steering of any particular individual toward a life-ending choice by family members, medical practitioners, health insurers, activists, or any other individual or organization standing to benefit financially from the end of a patient's life. However, efforts to persuade an individual to prolong his, her, or its life should not be restricted.

The United States Transhumanist Party opposes the emergence of any financially motivated lobby or industry whose primary business model would be assisted suicide or euthanasia, as the existence of such a lobby could create incentives and policies to steer people toward life-ending choices, including through legislation that might favor such "choices" in not-quite-voluntary situations. Instead, any prescription for a life-ending substance should only be provided as an incidental service by a patient's primary-care physician, with the express written consent of at least one other unaffiliated physician, and the substance in question should only be allowed to be self-administered by the patient directly after a pre-defined time period since the obtaining of the prescription. Once the substance is prescribed, no

medical practitioner should be permitted to benefit financially based on any specific choice of the patient to self-administer the substance to end the patient's life. This position should not be construed to restrict any non-financially motivated political advocacy on the subject of assisted suicide, which involves individuals expressing their views on this subject in a public forum, when those individuals do not stand to gain financially from others choosing to obtain a life-ending substance.

Section LI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to establish a cross-border or international organ-donation system so that organ donors who wish to do so may donate their organs in a foreign country. This could pertain to Americans working or traveling in foreign countries, but also foreigners or travelers who pass away within U.S. borders. This system would be particularly useful for saving lives with organs that have a very short preservation duration, and would take too long to be sent to the country of the donor's nationality.

Section LII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to increase the ability for public surveillance on the functioning of government officials, in particular those who may propose laws, during negotiations and deliberations on proposing bills and national and international trade agreements. Furthermore, the United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to make the current hosting of live-streams from United States Congress more user-friendly and accessible to the public, accompanied by links to proposed bills where applicable.

Section LIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to have a mandatory standard clause or affidavit, affirming that a Representative, Senator, or other Legislative Branch lawmaker proposing a piece of legislation, such as a bill in Congress, has no conflict of interest between serving the public and serving other parties, such as special-interest groups. The clause would have to be signed and dated by the representative before the legislation is allowed to be proposed.

Section LIV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports increasing broad accountability of Federal Government departments, agencies, and entities, especially those tasked with national security and / or criminal investigations, to the United States Congress. Currently some agencies may receive government funding without any accountability as to what the funding is used for, often based on arguments that this information is 'classified' or 'may not be revealed in the interest of national security'. This is irresponsible use of taxpayer money.

The United States Transhumanist Party does acknowledge that such entities or agencies may have security concerns regarding the publication of details of their budget plans. As such, the United States Transhumanist Party supports setting up a special non-partisan security budgetary review committee where more details of

budget plans would have to be provided before considering to provide funds to an agency or entity.

Section LV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]*: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to consolidate and reduce some redundancies among agencies and entities tasked with national security and law enforcement, as well as to reduce the number of such agencies and entities currently in operation. However, while supporting the elimination of parallel redundancies which can create problems, the United States Transhumanist Party recognizes that certain types of hierarchical redundancies can help with quality control.

Section LVI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]*: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to ensure that no United States Representative or Senator may be obstructed in their ability to vote on any piece of legislation, or be kept from the Senate or House of Representatives for intra- or extra-curricular political-party activities which interfere with their primary task as representatives of the people within government. For example, protections should exist to prevent situations where Representatives or Senators are forced by their political parties to do fundraising calls during a vote on a bill.

Section LVII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]*: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to restrict and limit civil asset forfeiture laws, and other laws that assist law-enforcement agencies in circumventing the Fourth Amendment, such as asset seizure, or detention or arrest in situations where no criminal charges have been filed, except as part of an active interrogation of a person suspected of a crime or unless the person detained or arrested poses a clear and probable danger of inflicting physical harm upon others or their property.

Section LVIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]*: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to investigate questionable, but currently legal, actions by law-enforcement agencies that have over time garnered critical attention by the public. The safety of the public could benefit from such actions being revisited or revised to limit abuse and to close legal loopholes.

Section LIX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017; amended by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]⁵²*: The United States Transhumanist Party considers it important for impartial, objective investigations of alleged police and other law-enforcement misconduct to be pursued. While law-enforcement agencies should not be prohibited from internally investigating potential abuses within their own ranks, such investigations should never be considered exclusive or conclusive, and further external checks and accountability should be instituted. As part of providing such checks and accountability, investigations

⁵²“Results of Platform Vote #6”. United States Transhumanist Party. November 19, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/USTP_Platform_Vote_6_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections LXIV through LXXXII and the amendment of Sections II, XXVII, and LIX of Article III.

regarding misconduct, negligence, abuse, criminal activity, felonies, and misdemeanors allegedly committed by police, district attorneys, and judges, should, in addition to any internal investigation, also be conducted by a civilian organization outside the justice system. The intent of this requirement is to limit the possibility of favorably biased or preferential treatment of a member of a given law-enforcement agency by that person's colleagues, and to restore confidence by the public that an investigation into police misconduct is done as objectively as possible.

Section LX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to limit the possibility for police, district attorneys, and judges to favor one another through mutual “back-scratching” accommodations which may cause a particular criminal matter to be resolved in a manner inconsistent with the true facts of the situation or the requirements of applicable law.

Section LXI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to prevent members of Congress from receiving special benefits, subsidies, and tax breaks that other citizens do not receive, and that are not necessary to function as a member of Congress. This limitation would pertain, for example, to health-care subsidies that are inaccessible to other citizens. However, this limitation would not prevent members of Congress from obtaining working conditions and job-related benefits of the sort which are broadly available, without regard to rank or degree of influence, to other Americans working within the private or public sectors.

Section LXII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]:* The U.S. Transhumanist Party supports efforts to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and to uphold the Rights of the Child as prescribed therein.⁵³ This would include abolishing the death penalty for minors federally.

The United States Transhumanist Party, however, opposes restrictions on the rights of parents to choose to homeschool their children in any manner that respects the children's basic freedom of conscience. Any ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child should not be construed to restrict any peaceful, rights-respecting practice of homeschooling.

Section LXIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during June 18–24, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party opposes those specific cultural, religious, and social practices that violate individual rights and bodily autonomy. Examples of such unacceptable practices are forced marriage (including child marriage), male and female genital mutilation, and honor killings.

⁵³“Rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child”. UNICEF. August 7, 2014. Available at https://www.unicef.org/crc/index_30177.html

Section LXIV [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]⁵⁴: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to create a reasonable minimum timeframe between the proposal of a bill and the voting procedure. To ensure a reasonable timeframe is proportional to the number of pages of a proposed bill, a time period per each specified amount of pages could be adopted. For example, and without committing to specific numerical magnitudes, a 24-hour period within a working week per every 20 pages could be adopted to ensure all members of Congress involved have sufficient time to read through and study a proposed bill’s implications. Such measures would prevent a bill from being introduced shortly before the voting process. They would also have the added side effect that proposals might become more concise, as the length of a bill would influence the consideration time.

In addition to this, after the proposal has been submitted, any amendments must be explicitly discussed in a public forum with the same degree of thorough consideration and same rules pertaining to the timeframe of consideration as allowed for the original proposal.

Section LXV [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to ensure a jury is fully informed on its rights and responsibilities, including jury nullification. The United States Transhumanist Party also supports efforts to prevent false claims being made regarding the rights and responsibilities of the jury.

Section LXVI [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: As an intermediate step toward the goal of complete nuclear disarmament and a potential pragmatic compromise in any future negotiations for disarmament, the United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to significantly reduce the United States nuclear stockpile, and to replace or transfer a small part (between 1 percent and 10 percent) of this stockpile, to mobile nuclear platforms such as submarines. An enemy may currently target the stationary nuclear bombs directly. Having a largely hidden mobile fleet of nuclear bombs would render it much more difficult for any enemy to target the nuclear arsenal, while still maintaining the nuclear deterrent option in sufficient capacity. This would further have the effect of lowering the budget required to maintain the nuclear stockpile, as it could be drastically downsized.

Section LXVII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports the right for individuals to have autonomy over, and utilize their bodies to earn money, including through activities such as prostitution, as long as such activities arise from a person’s own free will (e.g., not under duress), and the person is not endangering the health or

⁵⁴“Results of Platform Vote #6”. United States Transhumanist Party. November 19, 2017. Available at http://transhumanist-party.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/USTP_Platform_Vote_6_Results.pdf. These results led to the adoption of Sections LXIV through LXXXII and the amendment of Sections II, XXVII, and LIX of Article III.

well-being of others, including but not limited to the communication of sexually transmissible diseases.

Legalization would give those who wish to engage in prostitution the safety and protection of the law – for example, so that they may report abuse and would be prone to being exploited. It would also open the possibility for such individuals to unionize if they wish to do so. Furthermore, legalization would decrease government spending on what is ultimately a ‘moral crusade’.

However, the United States Transhumanist Party unequivocally condemns any manner of human trafficking, child exploitation, and other abuse that involves a violation of the autonomy and consent of any individual. The legalization of prostitution should be combined with stronger efforts to combat these dangerous and exploitative practices.

The legalization of prostitution could furthermore enable more effective action against human trafficking and involuntary exploitation, as, when prostitution is legalized, employees in this industry would become subject to the protections of the law. Legalization would help focus resources on combating the trafficking of humans rather than catching workers who chose this profession voluntarily.

Section LXVIII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party holds that any statement made by an elected official and/or public servant to members of the public in a public forum as part of that official’s or public servant’s job duties, and available to be heard, read, or otherwise understood in a public setting, physical or digital, should be considered a part of the public record and treated as an official statement of their office and position. This requirement does not extend to statements made by an elected official and/or public servant in the capacity of a private citizen or in the expression of a personal opinion or other position unrelated to the exercise of the official’s or public servant’s job duties.

Section LXIX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party holds that state and federal governments should establish an artificial intelligence (AI) analysis system for measuring risk of proposed legislation. Such a system could provide an impartial look at what legislation could cause harm or unintended consequences. Submitted policies would receive a score from 0 to 100, and the AI system would state what possible negative impacts may result. This system should be publicly accessible for submissions and for security audit. This is not intended to create or enact laws, but simply to serve as a tool to measure risk versus reward.

Section LXX *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party strongly opposes the possibility for any political party to determine the boundaries and borders of any voting district. The United States Transhumanist Party supports measures that require any efforts to have the districts potentially redrawn, when necessary due to migration for example, to be left to an automated system such as an artificial intelligence (AI) designed for this task.

Section LXXI [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to remove the possibility for a President to sign an international agreement among two or more nations by executive order. This would prevent a President from engaging in international affairs without support from the Congress, and likewise would make it more difficult to exit an international agreement, as support from Congress would need to exist in order for such an exit to occur. This would furthermore ensure that the United States becomes a more trustworthy nation in the eyes of the international community.

Section LXXII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to create a framework for an international or world passport. This framework could, for example, be administered through the United Nations, and the passport could be valid only for those countries who have proven to meet the standards, set by participating countries, required to ensure safety. Given that the European Union has an ID valid within its borders, and the United States has a similar agreement with Canada, imagining these forms of identification being combined shows that a world passport is not a farfetched or alien idea.

Section LXXIII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to mandate that new firearms will be produced with an embedded registration chip, as well as the registration number engraved on the firearm. The chip would have a registration number, a ‘trace online’ code, and a ‘lost or stolen’ code. The firearm would be accompanied by a physical and digital certificate of ownership with a registration number, the ‘trace online’ number, and the ‘lost or stolen’ number. The embedded chip would render it much harder to make the firearm untraceable. The number and codes involved would have to be unique identifiers.

When a firearm would be lost or stolen, the owner of the firearm and holder of the certificate would report the firearm to the authorities as lost or stolen using the ‘lost or stolen’ number. The intent of having a separate reporting number is to ensure that, in the event that a firearm is stolen or taken without consent, the offender cannot report the firearm as stolen, or as found again. When a firearm owner suspects the firearm is simply mislocated – for example, in the car or in the house, or perhaps taken by a family member, the owner could trace the firearm online via GPS on an online map, using the ‘trace online’ code. The ‘trace online’ code would never be revealed to law enforcement.

Law enforcement would have a device that can confirm the registration number of a firearm in close proximity, similar to contactless payments. On the other hand the detection range would be greater when a firearm has been reported lost or stolen by the owner of the firearm in question with the ‘lost and stolen’ number. A firearm that would not have been reported lost or stolen to law enforcement by the owner of the firearm with the ‘lost or stolen’ number would not be traceable from a greater distance by law enforcement.

This would ensure the privacy, safety, and peace of mind of firearm owners who might otherwise feel law enforcement would trace firearms without legal justification. At the same time, this measure would decrease the probability of stolen firearms never being found, and possibly ending in the hands of people with ill intent.

Section LXXIV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports the creation of an office of a Public Civil-Rights Prosecutor. Our current justice system is flawed. Only people with substantial wealth can afford lawyers to take legal action against those who attack a person's rights. While there are organizations like the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which offer help for some cases, their ability to do so is severely limited and typically non-existent in the lower courts. A Public Civil-Rights Prosecutor's office will help guarantee that, no matter who a person is or the position of the offending party, a person's rights cannot be assailed without consequence.

Section LXXV *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports lowering spending by the Department of Defense and the U.S. Military, which amounts to hundreds of billions of dollars per year and includes unchecked wastefulness. Reducing military spending would free up money for more important goals, such as curing disease, which collectively kills many more people than military conflict or war by an exponential degree.

Section LXXVI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to hold institutions, corporations, and states accountable for usage of federal money with a specific intended purpose. When an entity has been granted any form of funding with a specifically intended purpose, such as disaster relief or specific educational funds, and these funds are misappropriated or used for other purposes well outside of the scope of what they were intended for, the entity in question ought to reconstitute the funding that was made available.

Section LXXVII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports increases in the budget for the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Numerous biotech CEOs have recently made the case to increase the NIH budget, because the NIH conducts research that their companies would not be able to invest in, as investments not leading directly to a product would affect the bottom line. 33% of all the publications from NIH research are cited in corporate patents, so it stimulates new product development. A major driver for economic progress and reducing the suffering of those in pain, the NIH is essentially a public charity that brings us into the future. Whether one supports limited or expansive government, the NIH does not seek to regulate anything nor impose laws on anyone. It exclusively conducts medical research to help the sick.

Section LXXVIII [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: The U.S. Transhumanist Party supports efforts to reinstate the rights to vote for convicted felons who have received and served their punishment, in order to present them the opportunity to participate in society as otherwise normal citizens.

Section LXXIX [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports repealing the current requirement in the United States that drugs or treatments may not be used, even on willing patients, unless approval for such drugs or treatments is received from the Food and Drug Administration. Such requirements are a profound violation of patient sovereignty; a person who is terminally ill is unable to choose to take a risk on an unapproved drug or treatment unless this person is fortunate enough to participate in a clinical trial. Even then, once the clinical trial ends, the treatment must be discontinued, even if it was actually successful at prolonging the person's life. This is not only profoundly tragic, but morally unconscionable as well. The most critical reform needed is to allow unapproved drugs and treatments to be marketed and consumed. If the FDA wishes to strongly differentiate between approved and unapproved treatments, then a strongly worded warning label could be required for unapproved treatments, and patients could even be required to sign a consent form stating that they have been informed of the risks of an unapproved treatment. This reform to directly extend many lives and to redress a moral travesty should be the top political priority of advocates of indefinite life extension. Over the coming decades, its effect will be to allow cutting-edge treatments to reach a market sooner and thus to enable data about those treatments' effects to be gathered more quickly and reliably. Because many treatments take 10–15 years to receive FDA approval, this reform could by itself speed up the real-world advent of indefinite life extension by over a decade.

Section LXXX [*Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017*]: The United States Transhumanist Party supports efforts to increase opportunities for entry into the medical profession. The current system for licensing doctors is highly monopolistic and protectionist – the result of efforts by the American Medical Association in the early twentieth century to limit entry into the profession in order to artificially boost incomes for its members. The medical system suffers today from too few doctors and thus vastly inflated patient costs and unacceptable waiting times for appointments. Instead of prohibiting the practice of medicine by all except a select few who have completed an extremely rigorous and cost-prohibitive formal medical schooling, governments in the Western world should allow the market to determine different tiers of medical care for which competing private certifications would emerge. For the most specialized and intricate tasks, high standards of certification would continue to exist, and a practitioner's credentials and reputation would remain absolutely essential to convincing consumers to put their lives in that practitioner's hands. But, with regard to routine medical care (e.g., annual check-ups, vaccinations, basic wound treatment), it is not necessary to receive attention from a person with a full-fledged medical degree. Furthermore, competition among certifi-

cation providers would increase quality of training and lower its price, as well as accelerate the time needed to complete the training. Such a system would allow many more young medical professionals to practice without undertaking enormous debt or serving for years (if not decades) in roles that offer very little remuneration while entailing a great deal of subservience to the hierarchy of an established institution. Ultimately, without sufficient doctors to affordably deliver life-extending treatments when they become available, it would not be feasible to extend these treatments to the majority of people.

Section LXXXI *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports reforms to the patent system that prevent the re-patenting of drugs and medical devices, or the acquisition of any exclusive or monopoly rights over those drugs and devices, once they have become generic or entered the public domain. Appallingly, many pharmaceutical companies today attempt to re-patent drugs that have already entered the public domain, simply because the drugs have been discovered to have effects on a disease different from the one for which they were originally patented. The result of this is that the price of the re-patented drug often spikes by orders of magnitude compared to the price level during the period the drug was subject to competition. Only a vibrant and competitive market, where numerous medical providers can experiment with how to improve particular treatments or create new ones, can allow for the rate of progress needed for the people alive today to benefit from radical life extension.

Section LXXXII *[Adopted by a vote of the members during November 11–17, 2017]:* The United States Transhumanist Party supports reforms to reduce the lengths of times over which medical patents could be effective. Medical patents – in essence, legal grants of monopoly for limited periods of time – greatly inflate the cost of drugs and other treatments. Especially in today’s world of rapidly advancing biotechnology, a patent term of 20 years essentially means that no party other than the patent holder (or someone paying royalties to the patent holder) may innovate upon the patented medicine for a generation, all while the technological potential for such innovation becomes glaringly obvious. As much innovation consists of incremental improvements on what already exists, the lack of an ability to create derivative drugs and treatments that tweak current approaches implies that the entire medical field is, for some time, stuck at the first stages of a treatment’s evolution – with all of the expense and unreliability this entails. Even with shortened patent terms, the original developer of an innovation will still always benefit from a first-mover advantage, as it takes time for competitors to catch on. If the original developer can maintain high-quality service and demonstrate the ability to sell a safe product, then the brand-name advantage alone can secure a consistent revenue stream without the need for a patent monopoly.

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