

1 Reduce the Influence of Unpledged Delegates

2
3 **WHEREAS** free and fair elections, and grass roots decision-making, are vital components of a
4 representative democracy;

5
6 **WHEREAS** each presidential primary election and precinct caucus results in pledged delegates
7 selected in proportion to the votes tallied for each candidate, ensuring a fair distribution of
8 delegates;

9
10 **WHEREAS** the practice of selecting elected officials and other party leaders and activists as
11 unpledged delegates (also called superdelegates) to the Democratic Party's national convention was
12 begun in the 1980s by party leaders to enable them to influence the choice of presidential nominee to
13 ensure that an electable candidate is chosen and protect the long term interests of the Democratic
14 Party, as they view them;

15
16 **WHEREAS** Appendix B of the Call for the 2008 Democratic National Convention specifies that the
17 number of pledged delegates is 3512 (80.53%), the number of unpledged delegates is 849 (19.47%),
18 totaling 4361 delegates; and

19
20 **WHEREAS** unpledged delegates wield an undue influence on the Party's choice of presidential
21 nominee, and may cause the nomination of a candidate who received less popular votes than
22 another candidate, thus reversing the will of the people expressed through their primary elections
23 and caucuses, violating the democratic principle that every person's vote should count equally and
24 potentially causing some voters to be so angry and discouraged that they choose either to not vote in
25 the general election or to vote for a Republican or third party candidate, which could result in a
26 Republican victory;

27
28 **THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party Central Committee
29 and Party Chair should call upon the Democratic National Committee to reduce the influence of
30 unpledged delegates by amending any and all rules governing unpledged delegates for future
31 conventions to limit the number of unpledged delegates to 10% of the total of all elected delegates,
32 or to limit the total value of all unpledged delegates votes to 10% of the total votes of elected
33 delegates, or restrict unpledged delegates status to U.S. Senators, Representatives and State
34 Governors serving at the time of the convention.
35

36
37 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
38 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/2/2008)

39
40 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A PASS" at
41 its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

42
43 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14, 2008 meeting
44 in Spokane.
45