

Increase Higher Education Access

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3 **WHEREAS** higher education is essential to the prosperity and safety of our nation;
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5 **WHEREAS** the cost of higher education has skyrocketed several folds over inflation for the past two
6 decades putting such education out of reach for many qualified and deserving people; and
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8 **WHEREAS** people are burdened with enormous college debt with no end in sight;
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10 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party call upon the
11 Governor Christine Gregoire and the Democratic members of the Washington State Legislature to
12 lower student loan costs by placing ceilings on the interest charged;
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14 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call upon these policy-makers to forgive
15 student loans through voluntary student participation in national public services such as military,
16 Peace Corps, Teach America, public school teaching;
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18 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the initial cost of a college education can be
19 lowered by mandating that all colleges (public, private) apply a set annual percentage of their
20 endowments toward student tuition and fees or face losing their not for profit status and be taxed;
21 and
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23 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we call upon Governor Gregoire and the
24 Washington State Legislature to make college education more affordable by reinstating federal
25 grants and extending Opportunity Grants to lower and middle income Americans.
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28 Submitted by the Benton County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for consideration
29 at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/3/2008)
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31 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A PASS" at
32 its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.
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34 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14, 2008 meeting
35 in Spokane.
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