Help Shy Bladder Folks with Drug Tests

WHEREAS 60% of the government and civilian jobs in this country require pre-employment or Random Drug Tests based on a urine specimen;

WHEREAS Shy Bladder Syndrome is a psychological/medical problem that affects up to 7% of men and women in America and is recognized by the American Urological Association (http://www.urologyhealth.org (paruresis)) and the American Psychiatric Association (Social Anxiety Disorder);

WHEREAS most shy bladder people are unable to provide urine specimens for drug testing;

WHEREAS typical drug testing guidelines equate the "inability to provide a urine specimen" as a willful "refusal to test". Job applicants who cannot provide urine specimens on demand are not hired, and those that have career jobs are often fired;

WHEREAS the International Paruresis (pronounced par-your-e-sis) Association (IPA) was founded in Maryland and is dedicated to helping Shy Bladder folks;

WHEREAS the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Support Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the Department of Heath & Human Services was notified in June 2004 by approximately 135 letters from the International Paruresis Association and its members that SAMHSA urine drug testing regulations were discriminating against the employment of shy bladder folks;

WHEREAS the Drug Testing Advisory Board for SAMHSA received testimony from the IPA Executive Director (Dr. Steven Soifer) regarding the discriminatory effect of SAMHSA urine-based drug tests on several occasions in 2005 and 2006;

WHEREAS SAMHSA has never responded in any way to the discrimination complaints;

WHEREAS alternative drug testing procedures (e.g. saliva testing) are available which do not discriminate against shy bladder folks;

WHEREAS the Constitution 14th Amendment guarantees that Citizen Rights cannot be abridged without due process. SAMHSA has violated this amendment by knowingly depriving shy bladder patients of employment without due process; and

WHEREAS Governor Sonny Perdue of GEORGIA STATE in June 2007 signed into law Senate Bill 96, which allowed shy bladder folks to take a saliva drug test if they were
unable to take a urine drug test (this bill passed with the overwhelming support of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic party will work with IPA representatives to become the second state in the nation to end employment discrimination against shy bladder folks. This will be accomplished by enacting a bill similar to Georgia Senate Bill 96 but with the addition of saliva testing as a drug testing option; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution be sent to our Congressional Delegation to begin hearings as to why Americans with shy bladder are being denied jobs without due process. No permanent Head of the SAMHSA organization should be confirmed until emergency regulations are issued to allow anyone having difficulty providing a urine specimen to take alternative drug tests (e.g. saliva). SAMHSA, considering their past record of indifference, should be tasked with obtaining the written approval of the IPA prior to issuing any permanent or emergency regulations on urine testing.

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

The Resolutions Committee “AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A PASS” at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

The Washington State Democratic Convention “PASSED” this resolution at its June 14, 2008 meeting in Spokane.