

Equitable Opportunity for Disabled Americans

WHEREAS, people with disabilities are an underutilized human resource and are underrepresented in the educational, workforce and community support systems environments; and

WHEREAS, part of the solution to address the increasing shortage of skilled workers must be to include people with disabilities for success in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, for people with disabilities, they constantly face barriers and challenges which must be addressed and include some of the following:

1. Working-age people with disabilities, 20-64 years old, represent 58 percent of the state's population of people with disabilities, 4 percent less than the number of working people without; and
2. Only 51 percent of people with disabilities are in the labor force, compared to 87 percent of people without; and
3. Just over 54 percent of working age people with disabilities have some postsecondary education, compared to 70 percent of working people without; and
4. People with disabilities who participate in community and technical college job preparatory and worker retraining and adult basic skills programs tend to have lower hourly wages than those without; and
5. People with disabilities particularly in rural areas are less likely than those in urban areas to be actively engaged and supported by the educational, workforce and community support systems environment in a holistic manner; and

WHEREAS, increased efforts should be made to develop realistic solutions, in consultation with people with disabilities, for success in the educational, workplace and community support systems environment in a holistic manner;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic Party urges Democratic Party organizations at all levels, including the DNC, to increase efforts to be inclusive and respectful of all people with disabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington State Democratic Party take steps to address the inequities and disparities that confront people with disabilities by advocating for increased and equitable opportunity and successful participation in the educational, workforce, and community support systems environment, including healthcare systems.

Submitted by the delegates of the Yakima County Democratic Convention to the Washington State Democratic Party for consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in

45 Yakima (Date Submitted 4/8/2006).

46

47 The Washington State Democratic Party at its State Convention on June 3, 2006 in
48 Yakima referred this resolution to the WSDCC Resolutions Committee for review at its
49 September 9 - 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg.

50

51 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended a
52 "Pass" at its September 10, 2006 meeting in Ellensburg. The resolution will be
53 forwarded to the WSDCC at its next meeting on September 29 - 30, 2006 in Tacoma.

54

55 The WSDCC passed this resolution as amended at its September 30, 2006 meeting in
56 Tacoma.