

1 **Repeal of the Federal Defense of Marriage Act**

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3 **WHEREAS** in the wake of imposition of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy on a
4 reluctant military leadership, a Defense of Marriage Act was enacted and signed into
5 law in 1996 (P.L. No. 104-199, 110 Stat. 2419),

6 (a) limiting federal recognition of marriage and attendant federal
7 benefits to unions involving one man and one woman, and

8 (b) providing, contrary to the Full Faith and Credit Clause (U.S.
9 Constitution, Article IV), that no state need treat as valid a marriage
10 between persons of the same sex, even if valid under the laws of the
11 state where the marriage was performed;

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13 **WHEREAS** said Act, commonly known as “DOMA,”

14 (a) was based on the manifestly fallacious notion that heterosexual
15 marriages in the United States are endangered by the prospect of
16 same-sex couples marrying, and

17 (b) deprives same-sex couples of the opportunity to be accorded a
18 vast array of rights and benefits available under federal law to
19 heterosexual couples;

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21 **WHEREAS** since the enactment of DOMA, several states have, by legislation or court
22 decision upholding equality of rights under law, enabled same-sex marriage and
23 accorded full validity thereto under the laws of those states;

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25 **WHEREAS** our President was elected on a program including the assertion that
26 "Obama also believes we need to fully repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact
27 legislation that would ensure that the 1,100+ federal legal rights and benefits currently
28 provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples . . ." (campaign
29 website, 2008);

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31 **WHEREAS** the Platform of the 46th District Democrats, adopted July 26, 2008, declares
32 that “We support [e]very adult couple’s right to marry and be afforded all civil rights
33 associated with marriage, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity”;

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35 **WHEREAS** the Platform of the King County Democrats, adopted April 13, 2008,
36 declares that “The rights and responsibilities conferred by marriage should be available
37 to all committed adult couples regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity”;

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39 **WHEREAS** the Platform of the Washington State Democratic Party, adopted July 14,
40 2008, declares that “We believe [m]arriage is a human right and should not be restricted
41 by sexual orientation or gender identity”; and
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43 **WHEREAS** the Platform of the National Democratic Party, adopted August 25, 2008,
44 declares that "We oppose the Defense of Marriage Act and all attempts to use this issue
45 to divide us";

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47 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that DOMA should be repealed without further
48 delay, and

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50 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that our Senators and Congressional
51 Representatives be notified of this Resolution and queried as to their intended actions in
52 furtherance thereof.

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55 Submitted by the 46th LD Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
56 Committee for consideration at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle. (Date Submitted
57 1/21/2010)

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59 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
60 its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.

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62 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.