

## **A Resolution Amending the United States Constitution to Include FDR's Second Bill of Rights**

**WHEREAS** President Franklin Delano Roosevelt detailed his planned but never enacted "Second Bill of Rights," to amend the US Constitution that recognizes economic truths [that have] become accepted as self-evident -- the rights of Americans to a job, a home, adequate health care, and an education. "For unless there is security here at home, there cannot be lasting peace in the world." (FDR);

**WHEREAS** "It is our duty now to begin to lay the plans and determine the strategy for the winning of a lasting peace and the establishment of an American standard of living higher than ever before known. We cannot be content, no matter how high that general standard of living may be, if some fraction of our people -- whether it be one-third or one-fifth or one-tenth -- is ill-fed, ill-clothed, ill-housed, and insecure";

**WHEREAS** "This Republic had its beginning, and grew to its present strength, under the protection of certain inalienable political rights -- among them the right of free speech, free press, free worship, trial by jury, freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. They were our rights to life and liberty";

**WHEREAS** "as our nation has grown in size and stature, however -- as our industrial economy expanded -- these political rights proved inadequate to assure us equality in the pursuit of happiness";

**WHEREAS** "we have come to a clear realization of the fact that true individual freedom cannot exist without economic security and independence...Necessitous men are not free men. People who are hungry and out of a job are the stuff of which dictatorships are made"; and

**WHEREAS** "in our day these economic truths have become accepted as self-evident we have accepted, so to speak, a second Bill of Rights under which a new basis of security and prosperity can be established for all -- regardless of station, race, or creed..." - [Excerpt from President Franklin D Roosevelt's January 11, 1944 message to the Congress of the United States on the State of the Union]; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Washington's United States Senators and members of Congress move to include FDR's second Bill of Rights, which are:

- The right to a useful and remunerative job in the industries, shops, farms or mines of the nation;
- The right to earn enough to provide adequate food, clothing and recreation;

- 42 • The right of all farmers to raise and sell their products at a return which will give
- 43 their families a decent living;
- 44 • The right of every businessperson, large and small, to trade in an atmosphere of
- 45 freedom from unfair competition and domination by monopolies at home or
- 46 abroad;
- 47 • The right of everyone to a decent home;
- 48 • The right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy
- 49 good health;
- 50 • The right to adequate protection from the economic fears of old age, sickness,
- 51 accident, and unemployment; and
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53 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic  
54 Central Committee, send this resolution to Washington State's Democratic  
55 Congressional representatives and our United States senators, requesting them to  
56 initiate the inclusion of FDR's second Bill of Rights (above) into the United States  
57 Constitution via provisions in Article V of that document.

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60 Submitted by the Jefferson County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic  
61 Central Committee for consideration at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle. (Date  
62 Submitted 12/8/2009)

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64 Submitted by the Labor Caucus to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee  
65 for consideration at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle. (Date Submitted 1/30/2010)

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67 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND  
68 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.

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