

1 **Resolution in Support of keeping open**
2 **Washington State’s network of Residential Habilitation Centers**
3 **and reversing the Department of Social and Health Services’**
4 **policy of restricting admissions to the centers**
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6 **WHEREAS**, it is the Constitutional obligation of the State of Washington to “foster and
7 support” its Residential Habilitation Centers (RHCs) for people with developmental
8 disabilities; and
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10 **WHEREAS**, Washington State law “permanently established” the State’s five RHCs,
11 including Fircrest School in Shoreline, Frances Haddon Morgan Center in Bremerton,
12 Rainier School in Buckley, Yakima Valley School in Selah and Lakeland Village in
13 Medical Lake, to “provide services to persons with developmental disabilities,”; and
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15 **WHEREAS**, Washington State’s network of RHCs are an essential component of the full
16 continuum of care provided for its citizens with the highest needs; and
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18 **WHEREAS**, the five RHCs meet and exceed the very highest requirements of patient
19 care and have set the bar to which other care facilities aspire; and
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21 **WHEREAS**, by Federal law, families and guardians have the right to choose RHC care;
22 and
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24 **WHEREAS**, the number of residents at RHCs has declined because of the Department
25 of Social and Health Services’ de facto moratorium on admissions and not because the
26 need for their services has diminished; and
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28 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Social and Health Services, circumventing the
29 Washington State Constitution and the State Legislature, has made it clear that it
30 intends to close Fircrest School, and ultimately all of the RHCs in Washington State, and
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32 **WHEREAS** numerous studies have shown that significant savings are clearly not
33 possible by forcing individuals to move from RHCs into community placements; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, numerous studies have shown that forcing RHC residents to move would
36 cause real harm to real people by greatly increasing their likelihood of dying;
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38 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Fircrest School in Shoreline and all of the RHCs
39 must remain open and remain a viable choice by families and individuals, and
40 Washington State’s network of RHCs be funded to provide professional services to
41 people with developmental disabilities who live in the surrounding communities, and
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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party go on
44 record as opposing the closure of any of Washington State's RHCs and that admissions
45 to the centers be reopened to those families and guardians who choose these services.
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48 Submitted by the by the 32nd Legislative District Democrats to the Washington State
49 Democratic Party for consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in Yakima (Date
50 Submitted 5/10/2006).

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

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

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60 The WSDCC passed this resolution at its September 30, 2006 meeting in Tacoma.