

Resident's Rights Resolution

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3 **WHEREAS** the legislature recognizes that long-term care facilities are a critical part of the
4 state's long-term care services system. It is the intent of the legislature that individuals who
5 reside in long-term care facilities receive appropriate services, be treated with courtesy, and
6 continue to enjoy their basic civil and legal rights; and

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8 **WHEREAS** it is also the intent of the legislature that long-term care facility residents have
9 the opportunity to exercise reasonable control over life decisions. The legislature finds that
10 choice, participation, privacy, and the opportunity to engage in religious, political, civic,
11 recreational, and other social activities foster a sense of self-worth and enhance the quality
12 of life for long-term care residents; and

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14 **WHEREAS** the legislature finds that the public interest would be best served by providing
15 the same basic resident rights in all long-term care settings. Residents in nursing facilities
16 are guaranteed certain rights by federal law and regulation, 42 U.S.C. 1396r and 42 C.F.R.
17 part 483. It is the intent of the legislature to extend those basic rights to residents in
18 veterans' homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes; and

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20 **WHEREAS** the legislature intends that a facility should care for its residents in a manner
21 and in an environment that promotes maintenance or enhancement of each resident's
22 quality of life. A resident should have a safe, clean, comfortable, and homelike environment,
23 allowing ht resident to use his or her personal belongings to the extent possible; and

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25 **WHEREAS** the statements above are all contained in RCW Chapter 70.129, Long Term Care
26 Residents' Rights, in RCW 70.129.005; and

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28 **WHEREAS** the legislature extend basic rights of residents of nursing homes to residents of
29 veterans' home, boarding homes, and adult family homes, but by apparent oversight did
30 not extend those rights to individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in
31 intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled known as ICF/MR; and

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33 **WHEREAS** individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in ICF/MR should have
34 the same rights that other disabled individuals receive under Chapter 70.129; and

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36 **WHEREAS** House Bill 1407 will amend Chapter 70.129 to provide equal rights for residents
37 of ICF/MR;

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39 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats actively support
40 House Bill 1407; and

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43 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats will
44 actively urge its members to contact their state legislators to express support for House Bill
45 1407 which provide equal rights for individuals with developmental disability for residents
46 to ICF/MR.
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49 Submitted by the Disabilities Issues Caucus with the signatures of fifty State Central
50 Committee members to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee for
51 consideration at its January 24 meeting in Olympia. (Date Submitted 1/24/2008)
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53 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 24, 2009 meeting in Olympia.
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