

1 **Resolution to Our Legislators to Protect Burial Funds**
2 **from Being Taken by Professional Guardians**

3
4 **WHEREAS** when a designated Burial Fund is established for a senior citizen (or
5 anyone), then the money in that Burial Fund should be used only for burial-related
6 purposes; and

7
8 **WHEREAS** court-imposed professional guardians (who are often unwanted by the
9 patient and family on whom they are imposed) should not be allowed to use their
10 ward's Burial Fund as a slush fund to pay (often exorbitant) professional fees to
11 themselves and/or their lawyers, but unfortunately some professional guardians do
12 exactly that;

13
14 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Party, urge
15 the Washington state legislature to prohibit any professional guardian from taking any
16 money from a Burial Fund other than for burial-related purposes, and should prohibit
17 any court commissioner or judge from authorizing such taking. Violators should be
18 subject to criminal prosecution (including jail time) and to impeachment from judicial
19 office; and

20
21 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the professional guardian should be
22 required, upon the death of the ward, to promptly hand over any Burial Fund to the
23 next-of-kin or to whichever family member will be making the burial arrangements;
24 and

25
26 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be
27 transmitted to relevant officials along with a request for response within thirty days,
28 listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the
29 reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

31
32 Submitted by the 32nd LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
33 consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/21/2010)

34
35 Recommended Pass by the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Civil Rights and Human
36 Services, Immigration, Indian Tribes and Sovereignty, and Law and Justice. (Date
37 Considered 5/2/2010)

38
39 Recommended Pass with amendments by the State Convention Platform Committee.
40 (Date Considered 6/5/2010)

41

42 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,
43 2010 meeting in Vancouver.