

Resolution on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid

WHEREAS the U.S. population of persons 65 and older will reach 70 million by 2040;

WHEREAS people 65 and older have a wealth of wisdom and decades of experience to offer our country for the full length of their lives, and have earned retirement years marked by economic security and quality, affordable health care;

WHEREAS Social Security is a retirement insurance program completely funded by the workers of the United States, and \$4.6 trillion of the current deficit is owed to Social Security;

WHEREAS Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are the programs most critical in providing a foundation for a secure retirement for people 65 and older; and

WHEREAS the integrity of those programs is under unceasing assault, both from open ideological enemies and from false "friends" in Congress, the media and elsewhere;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we call upon Congress, including the super-committee on deficit reduction, with special attention to Senator Patty Murray, and the Obama administration to reject proposals that would undermine existing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid programs, as a means of compromising to reduce or eliminate the deficit;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call on these same groups to instead strengthen **Social Security** by: 1) removing the cap on income to Social Security tax; 2) changing the cost-of-living formula to more accurately reflect retiree expenditures; and 3) changing the benefit formula to reflect work-years lost by those who had to step away from the workforce to care for family members;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we and our government work to strengthen **Medicare** by 1) ending disparities in payment among different states; 2) finding ways to make it more efficient, such as fully funding innovative programs in the Affordable Care Act; 3) revise part D to allow the federal government to bid competitively on drugs; and 4) more closely regulate Medicare Advantage plans that have high administrative costs; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED to strengthen **Medicaid** by proceeding to fund the Affordable Care Act in its expansion of those eligible and in raising provider reimbursement to improve access to care.

43 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
44 Committee for consideration at its September 17, 2011 meeting in Bellingham. (Date
45 Submitted 9/9/2011)

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47 The Resolutions Committee recommended that this resolution be "PASSED WITH
48 AMENDMENTS" at its September 17, 2011 Meeting in Bellingham.

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50 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 17, 2011 Meeting in Bellingham.