

Requesting Congressional Inquiry into Presidential Signing Statements

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4 **WHEREAS**, George W. Bush has signed 134 signing statements challenging 810 federal
5 laws issued (As of October 4, 2006), and
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7 **WHEREAS**, many of these signing statements are used to declare that the office of the
8 President need not comply with the law in all cases, and
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10 **WHEREAS**, many of these dismissals address critical issues passed overwhelmingly by
11 the Congress such as the use of torture and the ability to open mail without judicial
12 review, and
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14 **WHEREAS**, these critical issues significantly impact our position in the world and our
15 civil rights, and
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17 **WHEREAS**, this practice sets a dangerous precedent which fundamentally undermines
18 the system of checks and balances that are the basis of our form of government by
19 declaring that the President is exempt from the law and may ignore the will of the
20 people as expressed through the elected officials of the legislative branch, and
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22 **WHEREAS**, the Republican led congress of the last six years has abrogated its
23 responsibilities for oversight of the executive branch, and
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25 **WHEREAS**, the House Judiciary Committee under Chairman John Conyers (D-
26 Michigan) has begun an investigation into President Bush's possible abuse of
27 presidential signing statements.
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29 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Washington State Democratic Central
30 Committee requests the Washington State congressional delegation support the
31 Judiciary Committee's hearings into the practice of presidential signing statements and
32 ensure that these hearings review the constitutional limits of the President's ability to
33 modify or nullify the law as passed by Congress. The hearings should further
34 investigate all signing statements issued by this administration for their compliance
35 with constitutional limits.
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37 **THEREFORE BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, if any of these signing statements
38 are seen to exceed the authority granted to the President under the constitution, the
39 Democratic Senators and Representatives of the Washington State congressional
40 delegation are requested to use all legal means to seek a reversal of the signing and
41 ensure that the administration complies with the rule of
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43 **AND FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, any administration official who refuses to
44 duly implement the laws as passed by Congress should be removed from office by
45 impeachment or such other means as are appropriate.
46 proven guilty.)
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49 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
50 Committee for consideration at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham. (Date
51 Submitted 2/28/2007)
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53 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
54 its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.
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56 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 28, 2007 meeting in Bellingham.