

## Make VA Health Care Funding Mandatory

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3 **WHEREAS**, the funding for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care under the  
4 Federal budget is a discretionary program, meaning that it is within the discretion of  
5 Congress to determine how much money it will allocate each year for veterans' medical  
6 care; and

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8 **WHEREAS**, Title 38 United States Code, Section 1710(a), provides that the Secretary of  
9 Veterans Affairs "shall" furnish hospital care and medical services, but only to the  
10 extent Congress has provided money to cover the costs of the care, and

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12 **WHEREAS**, the cumulative effects of insufficient health care funding have now  
13 resulted in the rationing of health care, including mental health care; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, the VA reports that it has now reached capacity at many of its health care  
16 facilities; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, the VA is unable to provide timely access to quality health care to many of  
19 our nation's most severely disabled service-connected veterans; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, it is disingenuous for our government to promise health care to veterans  
22 but then make it unattainable because of inadequate funding; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, making veterans' health care funding mandatory would ensure that the  
25 government meets its obligation to provide health care, including mental health care, to  
26 veterans who have a service-connected medical needs and would ensure that all  
27 veterans eligible for care in the VA healthcare system have access to timely, quality  
28 health care; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, making veterans' health care funding mandatory would eliminate the  
31 year-to-year uncertainties about funding levels that have prevented the VA from being  
32 able to adequately plan for and meet the constantly growing number of veterans  
33 seeking treatment; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, by including all veterans currently eligible and enrolled for care in the  
36 mandatory health care funding proposal, we protect the overall viability of the system  
37 and the specialized programs the VA has developed to improve the health and well-  
38 being of our nation's service-connected disabled veterans, NOW

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40 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party support  
41 legislation to make VA health care funding a comprehensive mandatory entitlement  
42 program, thereby guaranteeing sufficient resources to cover the expenses of the  
43 veterans' health care program.  
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46 Submitted by the delegates of the Chelan County Democratic Convention to the  
47 Washington State Democratic Party for consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in  
48 Yakima, WA (Date Submitted 4/8/2006)

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

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

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58 The WSDCC passed this resolution as amended at its September 30, 2006 meeting in  
59 Tacoma.