

1 **Resolution Endorsing Washington Families Standing**
2 **Together and Vote to Approve Referendum 71 to Retain**
3 **Washington State's Domestic Partnership Law**

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5 **WHEREAS** in 2007, the Washington State Legislature passed and the Governor signed
6 legislation establishing Domestic Partner registration in the State of Washington, and
7 provided rights and responsibilities for domestic partners such as the right to hospital
8 visitation and other critical health care and inheritance issues;

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10 **WHEREAS** in 2008, the Washington State Legislature passed and the Governor signed
11 legislation that expanded Domestic Partnership rights and responsibilities, giving
12 domestic partners standing under laws covering probate and trusts, community
13 property and guardianship;

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15 **WHEREAS** in 2009, the Washington State Legislature overwhelmingly passed and the
16 Governor signed the Domestic Partnership Expansion Law of 2009 including all the
17 remaining rights and responsibilities currently provided to married couples by the State
18 of Washington;

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20 **WHEREAS** the Domestic Partnership Expansion Law provides essential rights and
21 responsibilities to gay and lesbian couples who are denied the right to legally marry
22 and couples where at least one partner is 62;

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24 **WHEREAS** these rights include death benefits for the partners of police and firefighters
25 killed in the line of duty; pension benefits for the partners of teachers and other public
26 employees; victims' rights, including the right to receive notifications and benefits
27 allowances; the right to use sick leave to care for a seriously ill partner; the right to
28 workers' compensation benefits if a partner is killed in the course of employment; and
29 the right to receive unemployment benefits if an employee must leave a job to care for a
30 seriously ill partner;

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32 **WHEREAS** more than 5,000 domestic partnership registrations have been filed, in every
33 county in Washington State, providing essential protections to families;

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35 **WHEREAS** a group of socially conservative activists have filed signatures with the
36 Secretary of State to qualify Referendum 71 to keep the Domestic Partnership
37 Expansion Law of 2009 from going into effect and to repeal the law;

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39 **WHEREAS** Referendum 71 asks the question should the Domestic Partnership
40 Expansion Bill of 2009 (SB5688) be APPROVED or REJECTED;

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42 **WHEREAS** a majority of voters voting to 'reject' on Referendum 71 would result in
43 over 5,000 couples in the State of Washington being denied the over 200 protections
44 already enjoyed by legally married couples and thereby denied equal protection under
45 the law; and

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47 **WHEREAS** repealing the Domestic Partnership Law is contrary to the beliefs and
48 platform of the Democratic Party and our belief in equality, fairness and supporting all
49 families;

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51 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
52 Committee endorses the Washington Families Standing Together Campaign and urges
53 all voters to Approve Referendum 71 in order to retain the Domestic Partnership Law.

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56 Submitted by the 45th LD Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
57 Committee for consideration at its September 26, 2009 meeting in Walla Walla. (Date
58 Submitted 9/10/2009)

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60 Submitted by the 37th LD Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
61 Committee for consideration at its September 26, 2009 meeting in Walla Walla. (Date
62 Submitted 9/16/2009)

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64 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
65 its September 25, 2009 meeting in Walla Walla.

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67 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 26, 2009 meeting in Walla
68 Walla.