

## Department of Peace and Nonviolence

1  
2  
3 **WHEREAS** House Bill 808, to create a United States Department of Peace and  
4 Nonviolence, was introduced in the United State House of Representatives on Feb 5,  
5 2007, and since then has won the sponsorship of at least 68 members of the House;  
6

7 **WHEREAS** H.B. 808 provides for establishment of a cabinet-level department headed  
8 by a Secretary of Peace and Nonviolence, who will advise the President on issues both  
9 domestic and international in scope, giving peace a place, voice and budget at the  
10 highest levels of government;  
11

12 **WHEREAS** current levels of violence are very costly to society in the United States,  
13 with 1,886,667 confirmed cases of children wounded and 2,917 children killed by abuse  
14 and neglect from March 2003 to April 2005, and an average of 15 young people (ages 10  
15 to 24) killed daily by gang violence in 2004;  
16

17 **WHEREAS** H.B. 808 will benefit this state and other states by (1) supporting existing  
18 programs and developing new programs to address and reduce the number and  
19 frequency of incidents of domestic violence, child and spousal abuse, school violence,  
20 gang violence, gun violence and hate crimes, (2) developing and distributing peace and  
21 nonviolence curricula to the states and their schools, and (3) encouraging and  
22 supporting development of conflict resolution and violence-prevention initiatives from  
23 within the community;  
24

25 **WHEREAS** the proposed Department of Peace and Nonviolence will promote  
26 international peace and reduce military costs by (1) providing for exchanges between  
27 the United States and other nations to support domestic and international peace-based  
28 initiatives, (2) sponsoring conflict prevention and dispute resolution initiatives to  
29 address the root sources of conflict in troubled regions, and (3) providing training for  
30 personnel to administer post-conflict aid, demobilization and reconstruction in war-torn  
31 societies; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS** many local governmental agencies, including 28 cities, have passed  
34 resolutions in support of the legislation to establish a Department of Peace and  
35 Nonviolence, as have many national and international organizations including, but not  
36 limited to, Amnesty International, Center for Nonviolent Communication, Institute for  
37 Multi-Track Diplomacy, Physicians for Social Responsibility, September 11 Families for  
38 Peaceful Tomorrows, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Pax Christi USA, School Mediation  
39 Center, Veterans for Peace, and Youth for Environmental Sanity;  
40

41 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we urge our Washington State Congressional  
42 Delegation to sponsor the Department of Peace and Nonviolence legislation in the  
43 United States Senate and to co-sponsor such legislation (H.B. 808) in the House of  
44 Representatives;

45  
46 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we urge our Washington State  
47 Legislature to pass a resolution in support of legislation to establish a United States  
48 Department of Peace and Nonviolence, giving peace a place, voice and budget at the  
49 highest levels of government; and

50  
51 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party  
52 distribute copies of this resolution to all Democratic members of the Washington State  
53 Congressional Delegation, Democratic Presidential Candidates Hillary Clinton and  
54 Barack Obama, Washington State Governor Christine Gregoire and Democratic  
55 members of the Washington State Legislature.

56  

---

57  
58 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for  
59 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/21/2008)

60  
61 Submitted by the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for  
62 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/1/2008)

63  
64 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED  
65 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.

66  
67 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,  
68 2008 meeting in Spokane.