

Resolution Regarding Anti-Choice Candidates

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3 **WHEREAS** unlike some candidates who may reject abortion for themselves but do not
4 seek to force this personal decision on others, anti-choice candidates support rules,
5 regulations and laws that would impose additional constraints on access to abortion
6 and ultimately would make abortion illegal everywhere;
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8 **WHEREAS** the chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Rep. Ben
9 Ray Luján (D-NM) – in defense of Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee
10 support of mayoral candidate Heath Mello, who has sponsored anti-choice legislation
11 in the Nebraska legislature – asserted in April 2017 that Democrats will not withhold
12 support from anti-choice candidates;
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14 **WHEREAS** the 2016 platform adopted by the Democratic National Convention states:
15 “We will appoint judges who will protect a woman’s right to safe and legal
16 abortion” Page 25
17 “We will fight Republican efforts to roll back the clock on women’s health and
18 reproductive rights, and stand up for Planned Parenthood” Page 34
19 “We believe unequivocally, like the majority of Americans, that every woman
20 should have access to quality reproductive health care services, including safe
21 and legal abortion. We will continue to oppose – and seek to overturn – federal
22 and state laws and policies that impede a woman’s access to abortion, including
23 by repealing the Hyde Amendment” Page 37
24 “We will urge ratification of the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of
25 Discrimination Against Women” Page 46;
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27 **WHEREAS** the 2016 platform adopted by the Convention of the Washington State
28 Democrats states:

29 “VI. Civil and Human Rights

30 We believe: Each person has the right to sovereignty over their own body
31 We call for: The right of all women to be free of government, corporate, or
32 religious interference in their reproductive decisions, including
33 contraception and abortion, and to have safe, legal, protected, affordable
34 and accessible health care that enables them to make informed choices”;
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36 **WHEREAS** WSD Chair Tina Podlowski responded to the Democratic Congressional
37 Campaign Committee stance:

38 “There is a lot of outrage about the leader of the Democratic Congressional
39 Campaign Committee making comments about backing anti-choice candidates
40 for congress. . . .let’s just say that’s NOT the Washington State Democrats way
41 and we will not be supporting that decision here [for] our congressional
42 candidates”; and
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44 **WHEREAS** abortion rights are highly relevant to all of a woman's life — education,
45 employment, health, life or death — not a “single issue” that even some well-known
46 progressive male leaders arrogantly dismiss as insufficiently important to be one of the
47 criteria by which to judge a candidate, ignoring the needs of millions of women;
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49 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central
50 Committee unequivocally condemns the anti-choice electoral position expressed in
51 April 2017 by Ben Ray Luján, Chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign
52 Committee, which does not represent the Democratic Party and is contrary to the long-
53 established pro-choice policy of the Democratic National Committee;
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55 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
56 Central Committee calls upon the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee to
57 publicly reject the anti-choice policy stated by Luján and instead adopt the policy of the
58 Democratic National Committee;
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60 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic
61 Central Committee thanks the Chair of the DNC, Tom Perez, for his response to the
62 Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee: “Every Democrat, like every
63 American, should support a woman's right to make her own choices about her body
64 and her health. That is not negotiable and should not change city by city or state by
65 state... . At a time when women's rights are under assault from the White House, the
66 Republican Congress, and in states across the country, we must speak up for this
67 principle as loudly as ever and with one voice.”; and
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69 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that upon adoption this resolution be sent
70 to the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee; U.S Senators Chuck Schumer,
71 Patty Murray, and Maria Cantwell; U.S. Representatives Nancy Pelosi, Suzan DelBene,
72 Rick Larsen, Derek Kilmer, Pramila Jayapal, Adam Smith, and Denny Heck; The Seattle
73 Times; and The New York Times.
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76 Submitted by the 32nd LD Democrats on 8/25/2017.
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78 The Resolutions Committee reviewed and amended this resolution and recommended
79 that it be passed.
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81 The Washington State Democratic Central Committee approved this resolution on
82 9/10/17.