

Resolution on Immigration Reform Policy

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3 **WHEREAS**, border security has become an issue that needs to be addressed especially
4 in the wake of 9/11; and

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6 **WHEREAS**, immigration reform is currently being considered by congress and much of
7 the legislation would make criminals of undocumented workers, round them up and
8 deport them and build a fence along the U.S. and Mexico border; and

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10 **WHEREAS**, we need reasonable immigration reform that will provide an efficient
11 strategy for immigration control and for eliminating the undocumented population in
12 the U.S. and insuring sufficient legal access to the U.S. to meet the needs of our
13 economy and manage immigration to prevent downward pressure on the wages and
14 standards of working Americans; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated there are 11 or 12 million undocumented workers currently
17 in the U.S. and they work in a wide range of jobs in all 50 states and our country
18 benefits from their work for they most often fill jobs we do not want to do; and

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20 **WHEREAS**, many of the undocumented have children or relatives who are American
21 citizens, own homes and/or small businesses and have established roots in this country
22 and deporting them would be unreasonable; and

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24 **WHEREAS**, the McCain - Kennedy Bill introduced in the U.S. Senate in May 2004
25 would create opportunities for undocumented workers to earn the right to remain in
26 the U.S. under the following conditions: they must work, pay taxes, pass criminal and
27 security background checks and learn English; after six years of model behavior the
28 immigrant would have to show that he/she has cleared up back taxes, pay a fine and
29 then get in line for a green card; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, the bill would also create a new visa program for foreign workers to fill
32 jobs in some essential occupations and allow employers to temporarily hire foreign
33 workers when they are unable to recruit U.S. workers; and

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35 **WHEREAS**, the provisions of the bill expands enforcement and resources for border
36 security, fines employers who violate labor provisions thereby preventing the
37 downward pressure on U.S. workers wages; and

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39 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Washington State Democratic Party endorses
40 the provisions of the McCain - Kennedy legislation on immigration and urges
41 enactment of that legislation in both the Senate and the House.
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43 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any immigration bill or policy must
44 be fair and impartial to all parties and includes an adequate guest-worker program that
45 leads to documentation or citizenship.

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48 Submitted by the delegates of the Chelan County Democratic Convention to the
49 Washington State Democratic Party for consideration at its June 3, 2006 convention in
50 Yakima (Date Submitted 4/8/2006)

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

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

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