

1                   **Resolution Opposing Bush Executive Orders**  
2                   **that Violate U.S. Constitution and**  
3                   **Calling for Public Action**  
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5   **WHEREAS**, President George W. Bush has issued executive orders and the CIA has  
6   published a National Intelligence Estimate during the past several months that could  
7   lead to an extraordinary, unprecedented and unconstitutional taking of legislative and  
8   judicial branch prerogatives at great costs to personal rights hard-won by generations of  
9   Americans, and

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11   **WHEREAS**, on May 9, 2007, Bush issued a major presidential National Security  
12   Directive (National Security and Homeland Security Presidential Directive NSPD  
13   51/HSPD 20), which would allow him to assume control of the government upon his  
14   own declaration of a "catastrophic emergency", defined in the Directive as "any  
15   incident, regardless of location, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties,  
16   damage, or disruption severely affecting the U.S. population, infrastructure,  
17   environment, economy, or government functions,"  
18   (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/05/20070509-12.html>), and

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20   **WHEREAS**, on July 11, 2007, the CIA published its "National Intelligence Estimate,"  
21   which pointed to an imminent Al Qaeda attack on America, a second 9/11 which,  
22   according to the terms of NSPD 51, could place the nation under martial law if the  
23   president declares such an emergency, and

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25   **WHEREAS**, on July 17, 2007, Bush issued "Executive Order: Blocking Property of  
26   Certain Persons Who Threaten Stabilization Efforts in Iraq,"  
27   (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/07/20070717-3.html>)  
28   which "authorizes the Treasury Department to freeze and confiscate the assets of  
29   anyone determined 'to have committed, or to pose a significant risk of committing' acts  
30   of violence with the 'purpose or effect' of hindering the Iraqi government or  
31   reconstruction efforts," and "the freezing of assets of anyone who provides 'material  
32   support' to such a person or group, whether or not the person's support was knowing  
33   or intentional" and "expressly prohibits even donations of 'food, clothing, and medicine  
34   intended to be used to relieve human suffering,'"  
35   (ACLU <http://www.aclu.org/natsec/warpowers/31113prs20070727.html>), and

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37   **WHEREAS**, the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) further states that the Order's  
38   "sweeping provisions pose risks for residents of the United States and for humanitarian  
39   work in Iraq"; "could have a serious chilling effect on charitable contributions intended  
40   to ease the suffering in Iraq"; "reaches far beyond criminal activity to activity that may  
41   be entirely innocent"; and that a "person may find themselves inadvertently in violation of  
42   this order and there is no provision for judicial review," and

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44 **WHEREAS**, the conservative (Libertarian) Cato Institute issued a Policy Analysis on  
45 "Executive Orders and National Emergencies" (1999) that states: "Congress needs to  
46 take more effective action to check presidential usurpations of legislative power and  
47 restore the constitutional structure of government. Congress has such power: it may  
48 modify or revoke all presidential directives except those undertaken pursuant to  
49 constitutional powers, such as the power to pardon, that are vested in the president"  
50 (<http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-358es.html>), and

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52 **WHEREAS**, the July 17 Executive Order violates the rule of law in America – which  
53 ensures the innocence of the accused until proven guilty – by empowering the Bush  
54 Administration to seize a person's property if found to "pose a significant risk of  
55 committing an act of violence," even if no act whatsoever has been committed, now

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57 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Washington State Democratic Central  
58 Committee (WSDCC) condemns actions by George W. Bush to deprive the American  
59 people of their constitutional rights and bestow on himself the right to assume  
60 dictatorial powers, and

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62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, the WSDCC urgently requests the Washington  
63 State Congressional Delegation and the United States Supreme Court Justices, to  
64 immediately commit the full strength of their resolve and influence to protecting the  
65 rights of all United States citizens by reversing these Executive Orders and constraining  
66 Presidential authority to within its constitutional limits by whatever legal means  
67 available.

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70 Submitted by the King County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central  
71 Committee for consideration at its September 29, 2007 meeting in Wenatchee. (Date  
72 Submitted 8/28/2007)

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74 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS WITH  
75 AMENDMENT" on this resolution at its September 29, 2007 meeting in Wenatchee.

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77 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 29, 2007 meeting in Wenatchee.