

Resolution to Endorse the Washington State Worker Privacy Act

WHEREAS in 1935 the U.S. Congress passed the National Labor Relations Act with the stated intent to make the official policy of the U.S. government to support the rights of workers to join labor unions and promote collective bargaining;

WHEREAS the effect of the National Labor Relations Act allowed union density to grow and during the decade of the 1950s labor unions represented over 35% of all workers in America;

WHEREAS on June 23, 1947, and over the veto of President Harry S Truman, Congress passed the Taft-Hartley Act and President Truman denounced the Act as a “slave labor” bill; among other things, the Act declared the closed shop illegal and thereby weakened a union’s ability to collectively bargain;

WHEREAS since the passage of the Taft-Hartley Act, the U.S. government’s policies and practices have continued to diminish workers’ ability to exercise their rights to join a union, resulting in a gradual reduction in union density until in 2007 only 12% of workers are represented by a union;

WHEREAS employers and their union-avoidance consultants require workers seeking union representation to attend mandatory meetings at which the workers are subjected to threats, firings and implications of plant closures by employers; and

WHEREAS the federal government has failed to protect workers seeking union representation from the employers’ abusive behavior, the labor movement must seek remedy at the state government level;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democrats endorse the Washington Worker Privacy Act, which would make it unlawful for employers to require employees to attend mandatory meetings when the primary topic of the meeting is religion, politics or labor unions; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee forward this resolution to the Washington State Delegation to the US Congress, the Washington State Legislature, and the Governor.

Submitted by the Spokane County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/23/2008)

43 Submitted by the Yakima County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for
44 consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 5/6/2008)

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

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49 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
50 2008 meeting in Spokane.