

Resolution Advocating the Legalization and Regulation of Marijuana

WHEREAS there are roughly 700,000 adult arrests in the U.S. every year on marijuana charges, eighty-eight percent of which are for simple possession and not for the sale or manufacture of marijuana;

WHEREAS these arrests tear families apart, ruin careers, and often lead to government confiscation of property, while doing little to keep marijuana out of the hands of our children;

WHEREAS although eight states, including Washington, have enacted laws allowing doctors to prescribe marijuana for medical purposes, federal law prohibits the prescription or use of marijuana for any purpose, making actions which are legal under Washington State law illegal under federal law;

WHEREAS the criminalization of marijuana causes high social/welfare costs for the state, lost tax revenue, higher prices for those who need marijuana for medical purposes, and excessive profits for criminals who import, distribute and sell marijuana on the black market;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC) actively supports and recommends that our congressional delegation support a marijuana regulation agenda which will seek to eliminate the federal laws which threaten arrest and possible incarceration of doctors who prescribe and adults who responsibly possess and use marijuana;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the WSDCC encourage our congressional delegation to work toward the legalization, regulation and taxation of the manufacture, distribution and sale of marijuana, with a portion of the revenue derived therefrom being dedicated to education regarding the risks and benefits of its use; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee call upon the Washington State Legislature and the Washington Congressional Delegation to work toward the establishment of state and federal laws and regulations which will, among other items, include penalties for providing marijuana to minors and for operating motor vehicles under the influence of marijuana.

Submitted by the Island County Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 14 convention in Spokane. (Date Submitted 4/29/2008)

43 The Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED
44 A PASS" at its May 31, 2008 meeting in Ellensburg.
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46 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 14,
47 2008 meeting in Spokane.