

1 **Resolution on Raising State Revenues to**
2 **Avoid Devastating Cuts to Essential Services**

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4 **WHEREAS** a no-new-revenue state budget would gut core services to the poor and
5 suspend programs such as all-day kindergarten as a way to close a projected \$2.6 billion
6 budget shortfall;

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8 **WHEREAS** major cuts include a sharp reduction in financial aid for college students
9 and eliminating state-subsidized Basic Health insurance for thousands of low-income
10 workers, as well as \$339 a month and medical eligibility to people who can't work
11 because of disabilities General Assistance - Unemployable ("GA-U");

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13 **WHEREAS** many transitional housing programs depend on GA-U for a significant part
14 of their budgets, and eliminating GA-U would threaten their continuing existence;

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16 **WHEREAS** half of the GA-U recipients have a diagnosis of mental illness and removing
17 them from Medicaid would cause thousands to become homeless, without medication;

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19 **WHEREAS** Gov. Gregoire stated, "This document is not true to the values I believe in
20 and which have guided me through a 30-year career in public service";

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22 **WHEREAS** Democratic leaders in the House and Senate joined the Governor recently in
23 calling for new taxes to help close the budget gap;

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25 **WHEREAS** our platform states Democrats value: health care for all, high-quality public
26 education and fighting poverty and ending homelessness;

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28 **WHEREAS** non-performing tax exemptions cost the state billions in lost revenue; and

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30 **WHEREAS** the State has the most regressive tax system in the country, where the
31 lowest income people pay 17% of their income in federal, state and local taxes, while the
32 highest income people pay only 2.9% of their income in federal, state and local taxes
33 and this violates the principle of economic justice;

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge the
36 Legislature to repeal non-performing tax exemptions, beginning with the largest, and
37 sunset all tax exemptions every 10 years;

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39 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge
40 the Legislature to implement a state income tax on high-income earners; and

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42 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats urge
43 the Legislature to raise at least two-thirds of the budget gap in revenues, balanced by
44 one-third or less in cuts to services.
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47 Submitted by the 45th LD Democrats to the Washington State Democratic Central
48 Committee for consideration at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle. (Date Submitted
49 1/7/2010)

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51 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee “AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
52 RECOMMENDED A PASS” at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.

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54 The WSDCC “PASSED” this resolution at its January 30, 2010 meeting in Seattle.