

## Resolution to Our Legislators to Protect Burial Funds from Being Taken by Professional Guardians

**WHEREAS** when a designated Burial Fund is established for a senior citizen (or anyone), then the money in that Burial Fund should be used only for burial-related purposes; and

**WHEREAS** court-imposed professional guardians (who are often unwanted by the patient and family on whom they are imposed) should not be allowed to use their ward's Burial Fund as a slush fund to pay (often exorbitant) professional fees to themselves and/or their lawyers, but unfortunately some professional guardians do exactly that;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Party, urge the Washington state legislature to prohibit any professional guardian from taking any money from a Burial Fund other than for burial-related purposes, and should prohibit any court commissioner or judge from authorizing such taking. Violators should be subject to criminal prosecution (including jail time) and to impeachment from judicial office; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that, the professional guardian should be required, upon the death of the ward, to promptly hand over any Burial Fund to the next-of-kin or to whichever family member will be making the burial arrangements; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to relevant officials along with a request for response within thirty days, listing the actions they are willing to take to support this resolution or a list of the reasons explaining why it cannot be supported.

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Submitted by the 32<sup>nd</sup> LD Democrats to the Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 26 convention in Vancouver. (Date Submitted 4/21/2010)

Recommended Pass by the Subcommittee on Human Rights, Civil Rights and Human Services, Immigration, Indian Tribes and Sovereignty, and Law and Justice. (Date Considered 5/2/2010)

Recommended Pass with amendments by the State Convention Platform Committee. (Date Considered 6/5/2010)

42 The Washington State Democratic Convention "PASSED" this resolution at its June 26,  
43 2010 meeting in Vancouver.