

Resolution on Diabetes Prevention

1
2
3 **WHEREAS** diabetes is a serious, costly and increasingly common chronic disease that
4 affects almost 24 million Americans with millions more are at risk for the disease.
5 Diabetes contributes to almost 234,000 deaths a year and is the fifth leading cause of
6 death by disease in the United States;

7
8 **WHEREAS** almost 444,000 or 6.6% of adults in Washington are diagnosed with diabetes
9 in 2009 while in 1994 only 4% of adults were diagnosed with diabetes making diabetes
10 one of the most common yet most costly chronic diseases impacting the state;

11
12 **WHEREAS** diabetes causes preventable complications that can be life threatening.
13 Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness, kidney failure, leg and foot amputations,
14 pregnancy complications, and death related to flu and pneumonia. The leading causes
15 of death in people with diabetes are heart disease and stroke;

16
17 **WHEREAS** minority populations, especially Native Americans and African Americans,
18 suffer from diabetes at rates much higher than the general population and have the
19 higher rates of complications associated with the disease;

20
21 **WHEREAS** in 2005 Native Americans and Alaskan Natives in Washington had a
22 diabetes prevalence of 12% and African Americans had a diabetes prevalence of 14%,
23 compared to 6.6% in the overall population. In addition, the Washington State
24 Department of Health reports that diabetes prevalence increased as income decreases,
25 growing from a prevalence rate of diabetes of 4% among those citizens making more
26 than \$50,000 annually to 11% prevalence rate for diabetes for those making less than
27 \$20,000 annually; and

28
29 **WHEREAS** the Washington State Department of Health estimates that 31% of the adult
30 population in the state is at risk for, but does not yet have, diabetes;

31
32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington Democratic Party supports
33 implementing programs and coordinated efforts to reach and motivate people
34 diagnosed with diabetes and their healthcare teams in Washington to obtain and
35 provide appropriate medical care to prevent, diagnose and treat diabetes while
36 reducing the risk of complications associated with the disease;

37
38 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the WSDCC supports efforts that
39 allow Washington's Native American and African American communities, tribes and
40 the state to implement efforts to prevent, diagnose and treat diabetes while reducing the
41 burdens associated with the disease for Native Alaskans living with or at-risk for
42 diabetes should also be implemented;

43

44 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that efforts must also be undertaken to
45 assess the work currently underway in the state aimed at reaching populations living
46 with diabetes to ensure the efforts are reducing the impact of diabetes complications in
47 Washington; and

48
49 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the WSDCC urges the State of
50 Washington to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other
51 federal government entities are called upon to obtain relevant and necessary resources
52 to prevent, detect and treat populations impacted by the epidemic of diabetes in
53 Washington.

54

55

56 Submitted by the Disabilities Issues Caucus to the Washington State Democratic Central
57 Committee for consideration at its October 9, 2010 meeting in Moses Lake. (Date
58 Submitted 9/23/2010)

59

60 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
61 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its October 8, 2010 meeting in Moses Lake.

62

63 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its October 9, 2010 meeting in Moses Lake.