

Resolution Supporting Public Employees and Collective Bargaining

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4 **WHEREAS** unionized public employees at all levels of government provide essential
5 public services, without which middle class life as enjoyed by the residents of the State
6 of Washington would be greatly diminished;

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8 **WHEREAS** public employees provide services that are generally not profitable for the
9 private sector, and public employees provide critical services to people of all income
10 levels, including individuals and families who would otherwise not be able to afford
11 them;

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13 **WHEREAS** Washington state has recognized the importance and value of laws that
14 ensure workplace safety and the right to bargain collectively, and has the most
15 progressive minimum-wage law in the nation as approved by voters;

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17 **WHEREAS** the State of Washington is home to 350,000 public employees working for
18 the state, cities, counties, ports, school districts, community colleges, universities and
19 public utilities, who have collective bargaining rights under public-sector collective
20 bargaining statutes;

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22 **WHEREAS** public employees throughout the nation have lost their jobs and voluntarily
23 accepted reduced wages as a way to try and maintain the level of public services during
24 this "Great Recession";

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26 **WHEREAS** around the country and in all levels of government in Washington, labor
27 leaders, unions and their members have stepped forward to voluntarily participate in
28 wage and benefit reductions, furloughs and other cost-saving measures to preserve the
29 jobs of their fellow employees and assist in managing the impacts of the recession on
30 government budgets, and have developed creative ways to reduce costs and increase
31 efficiencies, yet many jobs have had to be eliminated;

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33 **WHEREAS** all working men and women in both public and private sectors deserve
34 honor and respect for the work they do and should be empowered to perform their jobs
35 efficiently and creatively with high-quality customer service; and

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37 **WHEREAS** we do not support, and indeed condemn, the ongoing efforts of state
38 leadership in Wisconsin and other states to curtail the rights of public employees to
39 bargain collectively;

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41 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we affirm our support for public employees and
42 the services they provide, and support the right of public employees to organize and to
43 bargain collectively. Further, we oppose any attempt to restrict or eliminate collective
44 bargaining in the State of Washington and ask our state legislators and the Governor to
45 defend the rights of workers to bargain collectively.
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48 Submitted by the 46^h Legislative District Democrats to the Washington State Democratic
49 Central Committee for consideration at its April 30, 2011 meeting in Wenatchee. (Date
50 Submitted 4/22/2011)

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52 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
53 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its April 30, 2011 meeting in Wenatchee.

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55 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 30, 2011 meeting in Wenatchee.