

## Support Rural Healthcare Facilities

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3 **WHEREAS** there are about 350 rural healthcare facilities facing budget cuts and a  
4 continuing decline in Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements (now reduced to around  
5 55% of actual healthcare costs);

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7 **WHEREAS** rural healthcare facilities used to receive COLA increases but now face  
8 decreases;

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10 **WHEREAS** rural critical access hospitals were recently on the state chopping block to  
11 have their state Medicaid cost reimbursement reduced;

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13 **WHEREAS** the Davenport's Lincoln Hospital nursing home and the Wilbur assisted-  
14 living facility are closing their doors due to the decline in Medicaid reimbursements;

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16 **WHEREAS** if the state loses its rural critical access hospitals, then many employees will  
17 lose their jobs, rural assisted-living facilities and nursing homes will close and their  
18 patients will have to be re-located in urban areas, and said rural hospitals will be  
19 reduced to in-patient services or become only emergency care centers or daytime only  
20 health clinics thereby greatly reducing safe healthcare options for the rural population  
21 of the state;

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23 **WHEREAS** if rural healthcare facilities close within the next five years as projected if  
24 the Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements continue their decline, the rural families  
25 and economies will be devastated, leading to an outmigration from rural areas to the  
26 cities, creating a chronic lack of safe healthcare in rural Washington; and

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28 **WHEREAS** most rural healthcare facilities are barely hanging on now with slimmed  
29 down staff but managing to provide safe care to the rural population for the time being,  
30 they all know they may soon have to close their doors for good because the state and  
31 federal Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements have declined relative to the actual  
32 costs for healthcare;

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34 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party advocate  
35 for safe healthcare in rural Washington and for an increase in state and federal  
36 Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements to rural healthcare facilities in order to keep  
37 rural healthcare facilities from closing their doors.

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40 Submitted by the Lincoln County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic  
41 Central Committee for consideration at its June 2, 2012 Convention. (Date Submitted  
42 5/3/2012)

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45 Recommended 'PASS' by the Subcommittee on the Preamble, Health Care, and Human  
46 Services at its May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Ellensburg.  
47  
48 Recommended 'PASS' by the Platform Committee at its June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Seattle.  
49  
50 'PASSED' by the Washington State Democratic Convention at its June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in  
51 Seattle.