

1 **Resolution Against Exploitation of**
2 **Developmentally Disabled, Aged, or Frail Residents**
3 **by Facilities, Family Homes, Adult Family Homes,**
4 **Assisted Living Facilities, Group Homes,**
5 **Boarding Houses, and Other Care Facilities**
6 **and Functionaries**

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8 **WHEREAS** many of us felt righteous indignation when we saw the three-part
9 investigative serious “Seniors for Sale: How the aged and frail are exploited in
10 Washington’s Adult Family Homes” by Michael J. Berens (Seattle Times staff reporter),
11 which appeared on the front page (and continued on inside pages) of The Seattle Times
12 Newspaper, January 31, Feb 1 & 2, 2010;

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14 **WHEREAS** some of us felt especially indignant when we saw the headline “Neglect
15 and Death, but home stays open: “State knew of chronic violations; families didn’t” by
16 Michael J. Berens, on the front page of The Seattle Times, Monday, Feb 1, 2010;

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18 **WHEREAS** stronger measures are needed to oppose the exploitation of the aged and
19 frail and developmentally disabled citizens by so-called adult family homes and other
20 care facilities and functionaries;

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22 **WHEREAS** families of former residents of Residential Habilitation Centers are being
23 denied their parental rights by state action to assume guardianship over their loved
24 ones when they object to documented mistreatment; and

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26 **WHEREAS** families have a vital role in elder care and vulnerable dd citizen care; the
27 family should never be shut out, never be kept “in the dark”, never be “kept out of the
28 loop”, and never be kept ignorant of what is being done to their loved one by facilities
29 and functionaries;

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31 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Party, call
32 for our legislators to enact legislation addressing these egregious violations of citizens’
33 human rights, and we call for committee chairs to hold hearings, and we call for the
34 legislature to enact laws to require that when government, including DSHS or the
35 police, know of or suspects abuse or neglect or exploitation of a patient or resident or
36 client by an elder care facility or functionary, then the family must be notified;

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38 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the practice of the state assuming
39 legal guardianship of vulnerable citizens when the family complains about
40 mistreatment of their loved-ones must stop immediately; and

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42 **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the law should provide that where the
43 State fails to first prove that the family has been abusive, the family shall have the right
44 to choose to remove that resident family member from that facility.
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47 Submitted by the 32nd Legislative District Democrats to the Washington State
48 Democratic Central Committee for consideration at its June 2, 2012 Convention. (Date
49 Submitted 4/30/2012)

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51 Recommended 'PASS WITH AMENDMENTS' by the Subcommittee on the Preamble,
52 Health Care, and Human Services at its May 12th meeting in Ellensburg.

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54 Recommended 'PASS' by the Platform Committee at its June 1st meeting in Seattle.

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56 'PASSED' by the Washington State Democratic Convention at its June 2nd meeting in
57 Seattle.