

## Forgiving Legal Financial Obligations of Homeless Veterans

**WHEREAS** military veterans have served their fellow citizens and our country;

**WHEREAS** recent estimates indicate that there are as many as 1,000 homeless veterans in Washington State;

**WHEREAS** many of these homeless veterans have Legal Financial Obligations (LFO) resulting from fines, warrants or tickets which they are unable to pay and which continue to increase through interest charges and many of which have been turned over to collection agencies;

**WHEREAS** there are few legitimate community service opportunities available through which homeless veterans could work off their LFOs; and

**WHEREAS** the inability to pay these LFOs seriously constrains efforts by veterans and support organizations to make progress toward recovery;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the State of Washington should, through the enactment of legislation or through Executive Decree, absolve current homeless veterans of debts associated with LFOs and prevent interest charges from accruing for veterans who are registered as homeless with the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs (WSDVA).

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

Recommended 'PASS' by the Subcommittee on the Foreign Policy, Immigration, the Military, and Tribal Sovereignty and Relations at its May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting in Ellensburg.

Recommended 'PASS' by the Platform Committee at its June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in Seattle.

'PASSED' by the Washington State Democratic Convention at its June 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in Seattle.