

1 **Resolution of the Mason County Democrats**
2 **Supporting the Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013**
3

4 **WHEREAS**, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proposed, in 1935, a legislative
5 package of three parallel programs to provide all Americans with a secure retirement;
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7 **WHEREAS**, only one program, Social Security, was then enacted;
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9 **WHEREAS**, voluntary retirement accounts such as the IRA and 401(k) serve mainly to
10 enhance the retirement security of individuals who are already retirement secure;
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12 **WHEREAS**, voluntary retirement accounts have failed to provide that “third leg” of the
13 retirement “stool” for virtually all lower income and most middle income Americans
14 due to 40 years of wage stagnation;
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16 **WHEREAS**, private sector employer based pensions have almost ceased to exist and
17 almost all of those that still do are seriously underfunded;
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19 **WHEREAS**, the average Social Security retirement benefit is approximately \$1200.00
20 per month;
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22 **WHEREAS** the current COLA formula for Social Security and veterans benefits is not
23 reflective of the costs faced by seniors;
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25 **WHEREAS**, the Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013 will Strengthen Benefits by
26 Reforming the Social Security Benefit Formula: To improve benefits for current and
27 future Social Security beneficiaries, the Act changes the method by which the Social
28 Security Administration calculates Social Security benefits. This change will boost
29 benefits for all Social Security beneficiaries by approximately \$70 per month, but is
30 targeted to help those in the low and middle of the income distribution, for whom
31 Social Security has become an ever greater share of their retirement income;
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33 **WHEREAS**, the Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013 will ensure that Cost of
34 Living Adjustments Adequately Reflect the Living Expenses of Retirees: The Act
35 changes the way the Social Security Administration calculates the Cost of Living
36 Adjustments (COLA). To ensure that benefits better reflect cost increases facing seniors,
37 future COLAs will be based on the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E).
38 Making this change to Social Security is expected to result in higher COLAs, ensuring
39 that seniors are able to better keep up with the rising costs of essential items, like health
40 care; and
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42 **WHEREAS**, the Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013 will improve the Long Term
43 Financial Condition of the Trust Fund: Social Security is not in crisis, but does face a
44 long-term deficit. To help extend the life of the trust fund the Act phases out the
45 current taxable cap of \$113,700 so that payroll taxes apply fairly to every dollar of
46 wages; and

47
48 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central
49 Committee, support The Strengthening Social Security Act of 2013, and request our
50 congressional delegates to co-sponsor the Act.

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53 Submitted by the Mason County Democrats to the Washington State Democratic
54 Central Committee for consideration at its September 21, 2013 meeting in Ocean Shores.
55 (Date Submitted 9/13/2013)

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57 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND
58 RECOMMENDED A PASS" at its September 21, 2013 meeting in Ocean Shores

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60 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 21, 2013 meeting in Ocean
61 Shores.