

Resolution Supporting Spending Cuts In Pentagon Spending

WHEREAS automatic across-the-board spending cuts went into effect on March 1, reducing discretionary spending by \$1 trillion over the next ten years;

WHEREAS Congress has not yet agreed upon a strategic budget package to undo the sequester cuts;

WHEREAS Congress is beginning the process of setting Fiscal Year 2014 spending levels for the Pentagon;

WHEREAS Pentagon spending, excluding nuclear weapons and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, has increased by 35% in the last decade, while domestic discretionary spending has increased by only 12% during that period;

WHEREAS the Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified \$70 billion wasted on major weapons systems in a period of just two years;

WHEREAS reductions of military spending at the levels required by sequestration would constitute a 31% reduction from the 2010 wartime peak spending level, which would be smaller than the reductions following the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold Wars;

WHEREAS the Pentagon can protect Americans by reshaping the budget and accompanying strategy to focus on 21st century threats;

WHEREAS think-tanks and experts from across the political spectrum, including the Simpson-Bowles Commission, the Cato Institute, Taxpayers for Common Sense and the Project on Defense Alternatives, have identified hundreds of billions of dollars of Pentagon spending reductions that would not harm national security; and

WHEREAS Washington State will suffer this year as a result of domestic sequester cuts, including 160 teaching jobs at risk, 440 fewer low-income students receiving college aid, 2,850 fewer children receiving vaccinations, and \$143,000 less to aid victims of domestic violence;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee calls on our Congressional Representatives and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to work to develop a budget for Fiscal Year 2014 that balances the undoing of domestic sequester cuts with significant reductions in wasteful Pentagon spending, while preserving critical services for veterans and active duty military members.

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44 Approved by the 30th LD Democrats for transmission to the Washington State
45 Democrats for its consideration at its September 21st meeting in Ocean Shores.
46 (Submitted September 9, 2013)

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48 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "RECOMMENDED A PASS" on this resolution at
49 its September 21, 2013 meeting in Ocean Shores.

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