

1     **Increase the Number of National Health Service Corps (NHSC)**  
2             **Scholarships and Indian Health Service Funding**

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4     **WHEREAS** the National Health Service Corp supplied health care professionals before  
5     1980;

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7     **WHEREAS** the Reagan administration drastically reduced NHSC new scholarship  
8     awards in 1980;

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10    **WHEREAS** the National Health Service Corp did supply health care professionals for a  
11    variety of government agencies (CDC, BOP, Indian Health Service, NOAA, etc.);

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13    **WHEREAS** the government agencies now have to compete with other community  
14    organization in recruiting health care professionals;

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16    **WHEREAS** the number of physicians provided to Indian Health Services from NHSC  
17    was sharply reduced after 1988 and were eliminated after 1991;

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19    **WHEREAS** volunteer recruiting of physicians for Indian Health service alone is not  
20    likely to fill all the health care professional vacancies in Indian Health Service;

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22    **WHEREAS** Indian Health Services have a disadvantage in competing for health care  
23    professionals because their facilities are located in the most isolated areas in the United  
24    States exacerbated by the associated problems of inadequate housing and lack of other  
25    community services; and

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27    **WHEREAS** at present, the Indian Health Service probably is operating with a 10 to 20  
28    percent shortage of clinical staff;

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30    **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democratic Central  
31    Committee, urge our elected federal officials to pursue increasing the number of NHSC  
32    scholarships to levels held prior to 1980, to provide funding in the short term for  
33    immediate relief to Indian Health Services and to fully fund the Indian Health Service  
34    to a level to meet all of the medical services that are provided by other community  
35    health organizations.

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38    Submitted by the Okanogan County Democrats to the 2014 Washington State  
39    Democratic Convention. (Date Submitted 4/12/2014)

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41    The Subcommittee on Tribal Relations and Sovereignty recommended that this  
42    resolution be passed as amended at their May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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44 The Platform Committee affirmed the recommendation of the Subcommittee on Tribal  
45 Relations and Sovereignty at their May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting.

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47 The 2014 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 21,  
48 2014.