

1 **Supporting Equal Rights and Basic Protections**
2 **for College Athletes**

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4 **WHEREAS** college athletes are too often left to pay sports-related medical bills, lose
5 their scholarships when they are injured, face unnecessary risks of traumatic brain
6 injury, and are denied due process rights;

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8 **WHEREAS** the NCAA denies it has a duty to protect college athletes;

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10 **WHEREAS** the NCAA denies it has a duty to ensure a quality education for college
11 athletes;

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13 **WHEREAS** an NCAA study shows college football and basketball players spend
14 approximately 40 hours per week in their sport alone, while their Federal Graduation
15 Rates hover just above 50%;

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17 **WHEREAS** NCAA sports is a professional and commercial sports enterprise that uses
18 college athletes to secure billions of dollars per year;

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20 **WHEREAS** coaches and conference commissioners enjoy multi-million dollars salaries
21 while college revenue athletes, the majority of whom are minorities from low-income
22 backgrounds, are limited to scholarships that leave most of them living under the
23 federal poverty line;

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25 **WHEREAS** Ohio and Michigan adopted laws that stripped college athletes in their
26 states of their labor rights, and some federal lawmakers are lobbying the National Labor
27 Relations Board to do the same; and

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29 **WHEREAS** excluding college athletes from equal treatment under labor, antitrust, and
30 due process laws is an attack on their civil rights;

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32 **WHEREAS** the College Athletes Players Association is a labor organization established
33 to assert college athletes' status as employees with the right to collectively bargain;

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35 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Party calls for
36 college sports reform that guarantees college athletes basic protections while granting
37 college athletes equal treatment under labor laws, antitrust laws, and all other laws that
38 protect our citizens; and
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40 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Washington State Democratic Party
41 recognizes the National College Players Association's efforts in providing college
42 athletes an independent voice in pursuit of basic protections; supports the College
43 Athletes Players Association mission of establishing a union for college athletes; and
44 calls upon our members in our state legislature and the U.S. Congress to defend the
45 principles of this resolution on the state and federal level.

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48 Submitted by the Young Democrats of Washington to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted
49 8/31/2015)

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51 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be
52 "PASSED" at its September 19, 2015 meeting in Wenatchee.

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54 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its September 19, 2015 meeting in Wenatchee.