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A Resolution in Support of Healthcare for All Washingtonians by 2020

WHEREAS we, the citizens of the United States, pay twice as much for healthcare as the other industrialized countries, yet are less healthy than our peer nations, suffering from more heart disease and chronic conditions, shorter life expectancy and higher infant mortality;

WHEREAS the Affordable Care Act (ACA), intended to lessen our healthcare spending and improve our health outcomes, was always intended for further improvement, and enables states to enact healthcare for all;

WHEREAS medical debt is still the most common cause of bankruptcy;

WHEREAS HB 1321 and SB 5305 have been introduced in the Washington State Legislature to declare that it is the intent of the legislature that all residents of this state have accessible, affordable, and comprehensive health care coverage by 2020;

WHEREAS in 2017, the federal government will grant innovation waivers to those states that can prove their healthcare plan is as good or better than the ACA;

WHEREAS a simple single-payer system would provide accessible, affordable, and comprehensive health care to all Washington residents and would allow patients to freely choose their doctors;

WHEREAS, such a system would provide savings and efficiencies, including reducing administrative costs and unreimbursed care and the social costs of personal injury lawsuits and bankruptcy;

WHEREAS such a system could rationalize healthcare spending through mechanisms such as global budgets for hospitals and negotiated drug prices;

WHEREAS a simple single-payer system would facilitate health planning, directing capital funds to build and expand health facilities where they are needed, rather than being driven by the dictates of the market, thereby improving health outcomes for currently underserved communities; and

WHEREAS such a system could ameliorate the current disparities in reimbursement rates to healthcare systems in the rural and urban areas of Washington;

41 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Washington State Democrats, urge our
42 legislative delegation to support the bills (SB 5305 and HB 1321) in the 2016 legislative
43 session.

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46 Submitted by the 1st LD Democrats to the WSDCC. (Date Submitted 1/12/2016)

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48 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and recommended that it be
49 "PASSED" at its January 30, 2016 meeting in Lynnwood.

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51 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its January 30, 2016 meeting in Lynnwood.