

1       **Increase Investments to End Homelessness in Washington!**

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3       **WHEREAS** everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable  
4 home;

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6       **WHEREAS** the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction identified 35,551 public  
7 school students who experienced homelessness during the 2014-2015 school year, a 36%  
8 increase over 2010-2011;

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10       **WHEREAS**, as an example, during the most recent King County One Night Count of  
11 people who are homeless and without shelter in January 2016, volunteers identified  
12 4,505 people surviving outside between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., after area shelters were  
13 full (a 19% increase over the 2015 count);

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15       **WHEREAS** the annual statewide point-in-time count identified 19,418 people  
16 experiencing homelessness in January 2015;

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18       **WHEREAS** housing affordability and homelessness have reached a crisis level in  
19 communities throughout Washington;

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21       **WHEREAS**, as an example, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and King County Executive Dow  
22 Constantine have declared states of emergency due to rising homelessness; and

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24       **WHEREAS** a national study found that for every \$100 increase in average rents,  
25 homelessness increases by 15% in urban areas and by 39% in rural and suburban areas;

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27       **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we call for a significant increase in investment in  
28 the State Housing Trust Fund to create newly affordable homes for very low-income  
29 households (less than 30% of area median income) in Washington;

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31       **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we call for significantly increased  
32 state investments in mental health/substance abuse treatment services to prevent and  
33 end homelessness; and

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35       **THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that we call upon the Washington State  
36 Congressional delegation to work to increase HUD housing and services, and to  
37 support Sen. Maria Cantwell's bill to lift the cap on federal tax credits for affordable  
38 housing.

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42 Submitted by the King County Convention, as originated by the Washington State Low-  
Income Housing Alliance.

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44 The Platform Committee recommended that this resolution be passed at their June 17,  
45 2016 meeting.

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47 The 2016 Washington State Democratic Convention passed this resolution on June 18,  
48 2016.

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