

1 **Resolution to Support Initiative 1501**
2 **- Prevent Fraud and Protect Seniors**

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4 **WHEREAS** thousands of Washington’s citizens are victims of identity theft and
5 consumer fraud each year;

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7 **WHEREAS** over half of scam victims are over age 50, according to a recent study, and
8 fraudulent telemarketers direct 56 percent to nearly 80 percent of their calls at older
9 customers;

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11 **WHEREAS** financial exploitation of senior citizens costs them \$2.9 billion every year;

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13 **WHEREAS** for every case of fraud that is reported, it is estimated that 43 others are not;

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15 **WHEREAS** Initiative 1501 will address the problem by discouraging identity theft and
16 consumer fraud against seniors and other vulnerable residents;

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18 **WHEREAS** Initiative 1501 will increase penalties on criminals who prey on senior
19 citizens and other vulnerable people;

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21 **WHEREAS** Initiative 1501 prevents the government from releasing information that
22 could help identity thieves who target seniors and the vulnerable;

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24 **WHEREAS** Initiative 1501 protects the personal information of caregivers of seniors,
25 Alzheimer’s patients, frail and vulnerable citizens; and

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27 **WHEREAS** the Platform of the Washington State Democratic Party calls for a human
28 services safety net and improved oversight for elders, and further states “The true
29 measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members” –
30 Mahatma Gandhi;

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32 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that we, Washington State Democratic Central
33 Committee, supports Initiative 1501 and urges all Washington Democrats to support
34 Initiative 1501.

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37 Submitted by the Labor Caucus. (Date Submitted 9/17/2016)

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39 Submitted by the Progressive Caucus. (Date Submitted 9/17/2016)

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41 The Resolutions Committee amended this resolution and included it in the “DO PASS”
42 slate at its September 17, 2016 meeting.

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44 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution as amended at its September 17, 2016 meeting in
45 Yakima.