

## Resolution on Retirement Security

**Whereas** the U.S. population of persons 65 and older will reach 70 million by 2040; and

**Whereas** people 65 and older have a wealth of wisdom and decades of experience to offer our country for the full length of their lives, and deserve retirement years marked by economic security and quality, affordable health care; and

**Whereas** Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid are the programs most critical in providing a foundation for a secure retirement for people 65 and older; and

**Whereas** the integrity of those programs is under unceasing assault, both from open ideological enemies and from false “friends” in Congress, the media and elsewhere; and

**Whereas** Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid should be strengthened, not undermined, by (1) removing the cap on income subject to Social Security tax, (2) establishing a more substantial basic benefit, (3) changing the cost-of-living formula to more accurately reflect retiree expenditures, and (4) changing the benefit formula to reflect work-years lost by those who had to step away from the work force to care for family members;

**Therefore, be it resolved** that we urge the Washington State Democratic Party to call upon Congress, including the super-committee on deficit reduction, with special attention to Senator Patty Murray, and the Obama administration to reject all proposals that would undermine existing Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid benefits as a means of compromising to reduce or eliminate the deficit;

Therefore be it also resolved that we call on these same groups to instead strengthen **Social Security** by: 1) removing the cap on income subject to Social Security tax; 2) changing the cost-of-living formula to more accurately reflect retiree expenditures; and 3) changing the benefit formula to reflect work-years lost by those who had to step away from the work force to care for family members;

Therefore be it finally resolved that we and our government work to strengthen **Medicare** by 1) ending disparities in payments among different states; 2) finding ways to make it more efficient, such as fully funding innovative programs in the Affordable Care Act; 3) revise part D to allow the federal government to bid competitively on drugs; and 4) more closely regulate Medicare Advantage plans which have high administrative costs;

*Adopted* \_\_\_\_\_ *by* \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by Tim Burns, [chair@30thdems.wa.org](mailto:chair@30thdems.wa.org)

August 3, 2011

Edited by KCDCC Resolutions Committee

