

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GENERATING STATE REVENUES SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN NEEDED PUBLIC SERVICES

WHEREAS the national recession has driven down state revenues by historic proportions; and

WHEREAS, for the people of Washington to live up to our shared values and succeed economically over the long term, we must make investments in core public priorities; and

WHEREAS, after billions in cuts last year, the additional cuts now under consideration for 2010 would result in (1) higher class sizes and fewer resources for schools; (2) thousands of our fellow residents without access to healthcare; (3) sharp reductions in the services that protect our most vulnerable, including children, seniors, and persons with disabilities; and (4) more polluted air, water, and land; and

WHEREAS additional cuts will undermine our state's ability to compete, and will result in the loss of thousands of additional jobs at a time when our economy is hurting and too many are already out of work; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Legislature is preparing to commence a 2010 Special Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS we understand that, during this 2010 Special Legislative Session, the State Legislature and Governor will set priorities based on our values, weighed against available resources; and

WHEREAS the Washington State Democrats are on record as opposed to any increase in the state sales tax;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we urge our legislative delegation and Governor Chris Gregoire to support and approve revenues adequate to protect our economic future by preventing further erosion of the essential public programs that residents value most about our state, including quality schools, affordable health care, a safety net for the most vulnerable, affordable housing, public safety, and a clean environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we urge our legislative delegation and Governor Gregoire to include, in their revenue-based approach to the current budget shortfall, a closing of unfair tax loopholes and an identification of new, nonregressive revenue sources sufficient to stabilize the funding for these essential public services in both the short and long term, thus reflecting our values as Washington Democrats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to our state legislative delegation, Governor Chris Gregoire, Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown, and Speaker of the House Frank Chopp.

Adopted March 18, 2010, by 46th District Democrats