**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE EQUALITY ACT**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING CONGRESS TO PASS THE EQUALITY ACT TO ENSURE THAT FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS ARE FULLY INCLUSIVE OF PROTECTIONS ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY, AND SEX

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Democratic Central Committee has a long history of opposing discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex; and

**WHEREAS**, it is a uniting principal of our democracy that individuals should be able to fully participate in society. Discrimination undermines both individual and societal stability; and

**WHEREAS**, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people commonly experience discrimination in credit, education, employment, housing, government funded programs, jury service, and public accommodations such as stores, restaurants, and transportation services; and

**WHEREAS**, women commonly experience discrimination in government funded programs and public accommodations, including sexual harassment, differential pricing and denial of services in places such as stores, restaurants, and transportation services; and

**WHEREAS**, regular and ongoing discrimination contributes to negative social, health and economic outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, states such as California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii. Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New York, New Mexico, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington plus the District of Columbia have laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex in employment, housing, and public accommodations; and

**WHEREAS**, Members of Congress have carefully crafted a federal solution to discrimination against LGBT people and women, the Equality Act.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**by the 32nd LD Democrats that:

**Section 1.** 32nd LD Democrats find that federal laws fully prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex are essential to furthering the wellbeing of the residents and visitors of Washington State.

**Section 2.**We affirm that LGBT people and women have a right to live free from discrimination in the core aspects of their lives included but not limited to, employment, education, housing, public accommodations, all government funded programs and jury service.

**Section 3.**We call upon Congress to pass the Equality Act to ensure that federal civil rights laws are fully inclusive of protections on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex.

**Section 4.**32nd LD Democrats will send end a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, to Members of Congress representing Washington State; Senator Merkley, Representative Cicilline, the Director of the LGBT Congressional Equality Caucus and President.

Submitted by Carin Chase, State Committee Person, PCO
Adopted on June 2, 2021