**Resolution in Support of Freeing the Vaccine for Countries in the Global South**  
  
WHEREAS, while the world’s wealthiest nations are being vaccinated at increasing rates, countries in the Global South are being left without access to vaccines until 2024 or beyond; and  
  
WHEREAS, this vaccine apartheid is not only unjust on humanitarian grounds, and also likely to lead to the emergence of new variants and potentially more deadly and transmissible variants in the future; and  
  
WHEREAS, around the world, capable vaccine-producing factories are waiting to access new vaccine and treatment formulas, however, the World Trade Organization is restricting vaccine access with intellectual property rules that pharmaceutical company executives, and their shareholders are using to profit off of this crisis, producing a prolonged pandemic for all; and  
  
WHEREAS, an emergency waiver of “Trade-Related Intellectual Property Rights” (TRIPS) currently waiting for consideration by the World Trade Organization, is a critical first step to enabling vaccines and treatments to be produced in as many places as possible, as quickly as possible; and   
  
WHEREAS, after sustained global actions, our movement successfully pressured President Biden’s administration, in May, to reverse their position and support a TRIPS waiver at the WTO, after over 400 organizations sign on to a common letter, protests were held around the world, and we passed resolutions in support through [Seattle](http://seattle.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=F&ID=9424778&GUID=838BD0F2-8D69-45D9-88AD-0C3359B7F4B5) and Cambridge city councils in the US, however the WTO has still not passed a comprehensive and final agreement; and

WHEREAS, US taxpayers invested extensively in every aspect of the development of COVID-19 vaccines: the basic science, preclinical development, and clinical trials for the vaccines; it executed procurement contracts that were critical to creating successful vaccines and ensuring they were available to the US public(1); and  
  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the failure of global, regional, and national institutions to contain this crisis shows why we need to build a mass movement to bring the virus under control; and   
  
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 32nd LD Democrats demand that all WTO member states and the WTO itself:  
• Pass a swift, comprehensive Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver on vaccine, treatment, diagnostic, and therapeutic patents which would allow countries with capacity to manufacture generic versions of COVID-19 vaccines.  
    
• Share know-how and technical skills across vaccine-and treatment-producing facilities to incorporate the safest, most effective methods of production.  
    
• Fully fund vaccine, treatment, and component production by taxing the richest corporations, beginning with the profits made by big pharma since the vaccine roll out; and  
    
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 32nd LD Democrats will urge other Snohomish and King County LDs to pass this resolution and then forward it to their US Congress Members, the Biden Administration, and the US Trade Representative; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 32nd LD Democrats will post this resolution and updates in our newsletter to urge more people, unions, community organizations and activists to become involved and stay committed until global vaccine equity is achieved.

Submitted by:  
Brent McFarlane, 32nd PCO SEA 32-2204  
Former State Senator Maralyn Chase  
Thom Garrard, 7th CD Rep to the WA State Democrats Labor Caucus, 32nd LD Associate Member

Adopted on July 7, 2021

------------------

Passed at the September 11, 2021 West Coast TRIPS Waiver Action Conference, Washington Fair Trade Coalition and Citizen’s Trade Campaign

------------------

(1) It was the government that produced COVID-19 success

https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20210512.191448/full/