**Resolution in Support of Universal No-Cost School Meals**

WHEREAS the Constitution of Washington State and the Revised Code of Washington State jointly declare that not only is it “the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders” and that said basic education is defines “as that which is necessary to provide the opportunity to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the state-established high school graduation requirements that are intended to allow students to have the opportunity to graduate with a meaningful diploma that prepares them for postsecondary education, gainful employment, and citizenship.”; and

WHEREAS there is compelling and consistent data that without nutritious meals, children are unable to focus on, learn and later recall the information being taught to them in school; and

WHEREAS universal no-cost school meal programs, consisting of breakfast and lunch, reduce the rate of childhood hunger, decrease the incidence of preventable health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease and cancer, increase participation by reducing income-based program stigma, raise test scores, decrease absenteeism and reduce behavioral issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 32nd LD Democrats conclude that the provision of no-cost universal meals is a necessary component to providing Washington's children their constitutionally protected right to an amply funded basic education; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 32nd LD Democrats call on all of our State Representatives and Senators to pass legislation that dedicates specific funding to support universal no-cost school meals for all children in the state’s public school system.

References:

<https://leg.wa.gov/CodeReviser/Pages/WAConstitution.aspx#ARTICLE_IX><https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.150.200>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/schoolwide-free-meal-programs-fuel-better-classroom-outcomes-for-students/>

<https://www.nokidhungry.org/blog/celebrating-school-breakfast-fueling-students-success>

<https://campaignforchildren.org/resource/issue-brief-universal-school-meals/>

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