

**Resolution in Support of Referendum #88 (enact I-1000)
to Remedy Discrimination and Promote Equality**

WHEREAS with the passage of Initiative 200 in 1998, Washington became only the second state in the United States of America to ban the use of race or gender in public education, public employment, and public contracting; and

WHEREAS today, Washington is one of only eight states without affirmative action laws to protect women, minorities, the disabled, and all military veterans; and

WHEREAS since the adoption of I-200, state spending with certified minority and woman-owned businesses has fallen dramatically with a loss of \$3.5 billion to small, minority and woman-owned businesses; and

WHEREAS I-200 has reduced diversity in higher education; and

WHEREAS under current Washington law, only Vietnam-era and disabled veterans enjoy affirmative action protection; and

WHEREAS Initiative 1000 would repeal I-200 and allow the state to remedy discrimination against qualified women, honorably-discharged veterans, people with disabilities, and people of color by re-implementing affirmative action—without the use of quotas or preferential treatment—in public education, public employment, and public contracting; and

WHEREAS I-1000 would expand the increased employment opportunities to include all honorably discharged military veterans and veterans with disabilities; and

WHEREAS I-1000 would also establish a Governor's Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion to oversee and promote implementation of the initiative; and

WHEREAS the 40th LD Democrats promotes and supports a diverse membership; and

WHEREAS I-1000 would promote diversity in general and thus benefit the community; and

WHEREAS our legal, law enforcement, and judicial systems are more just, fair, and effective, and enjoy greater public confidence, when they are inclusive and reflect the diversity of the communities they serve; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 40th LD Democrats support the passage of I-1000, if not by the legislature, then by the voters of Washington State.

Meeting Passed: 40th LD General Meeting, San Juan Island Grange

Date Passed: October 6, 2019

40th LD Chair: Trevor Smith