**Resolution to Restore GED Fairness in Washington State**

*Sponsored by Mary Wallon, PCO 1760*

Whereas more than one million students attend public schools in Washington State, making the annual grade cohort about 80,000 students and

Whereas only 60,000 of theses students graduate from high school each year, leaving about 20,000 students annually who do not receive the help they need to graduate from high school - in part because our state has among the lowest education funding as a percent of income and the highest class sizes in the nation and

Whereas this lack of adequate funding for public education has been repeatedly ruled to be a violation of our State Constitution by our Supreme Court, meaning these struggling students have already been deprived of their right to a quality education and

Whereas in the past, more than 11,000 of these “high school dropouts” (or more than half of the 20,000 students who did not graduate) eventually earned their High School Equivalency (HSE) certificate more commonly called the General Education Development certificate or GED certificate each year and

Whereas having a high school diploma or passing the GED is often a requirement to get a good job or attend a good college and

Whereas those who do not have either a high school diploma or a GED have an increased risk of taking drugs, committing crimes and ending up in prison and

Whereas in January 2014, the difficulty of the GED was dramatically increased resulting in the pass rate dropping from 50% to less than 10% in the past 3 months and

Whereas the new test GED costs about twice as much as the old GED test and

Whereas there is a substantially better HSE test called the HiSET test available for half the price from the College of Education at the University of Iowa, and

Whereas the HiSET has already been adopted as a HSE option in 11 States, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 36th District Democrats ask our Governor and State legislature to restore fairness and hope for high school dropouts by allowing our students the opportunity to take the non-profit IOWA HiSET HSE test rather than the for-profit GED HSE test.

*Written by David Spring M. Ed. 5Th LD and Elizabeth Hanson M. Ed. 46Th LD*