

***The 36th Legislative District Democrats Resolution Concerning Initiative 1491***

**Resolution**

**Subject:** Extreme Risk Protection Orders in Washington State and support of I-1491, initiative to the people

**Introduced by:** Dan Strauss, 36th PCO

**Referred to:** Washington State Democratic Party

WHEREAS, gun injuries and deaths in Washington State are a significant public health problem with approximately 600 people killed by guns each year over the past decade, and in 2010 more people in Washington State died by guns (609) than in traffic accidents (554); and

WHEREAS, a majority of mass shooters over the last 20 years have shown signs of serious crisis prior to taking fatal action and nearly eighty percent of those attempting suicide make their intentions known before an attempt; and

WHEREAS, survivors and family members from the 2014 UC Santa Barbara shooting, the 2013 Café Racer shooting in Seattle, and the 2006 Jewish Federation of Seattle shooting – as well as parents and family members of shooters and suicide victims – have all stated that laws like Extreme Risk Protection Orders could have prevented their tragedies; and

WHEREAS, family members, household members, and law enforcement officers are often in the best position to see early warning signs of dangerous, violent, and threatening behavior; and

WHEREAS, current WSDCC platform supports “In the stringent enforcement of laws regulating the purchase and ownership of firearms, while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners;” and

WHEREAS, Initiative 1491 is modeled on successful laws around the country and based on the well-established Washington State system of protection in order to fill gaps in the system that allow people experiencing crisis or demonstrating violent behavior to possess and purchase firearms;

WHEREAS, Initiative 1491 is an initiative to the people in Washington State that would create Extreme Risk Protection Orders, which will allow families and law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily suspend a person’s access to firearms if there is documented evidence that an individual is threatening harm to themselves or others because of dangerous mental illness or at high risk of violent behavior.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:**

*The 36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats endorses as “do sign” Initiative 1491, which would create Extreme Risk Protection Orders, allowing family members and law enforcement to petition a court to remove firearms from individuals who present a serious danger to themselves or to others.*

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that:**

*The 36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats urges the Washington State Democrats, the King County Democratic Central Committee, and all other Washington State organizations created under, or associated with, the Democratic Party to support signature-gathering for Initiative 1491.*

**And BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that:**

*The 36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats urges the people of Washington State to sign Initiative 1491, to help empower families and law enforcement to prevent gun-related tragedies by legally removing guns from dangerous hands in a manner that is commensurate with Initiative 594.*

Passed this \_\_\_\_\_ by the General Membership of the 36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District Democrats in Seattle, Washington.

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Jeff Manson

Chair

36th Legislative District Democrats