**IN SUPPORT OF PAID SICK DAYS and FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE**

WHEREAS, most workers have limited paid leave to deal with their health needs, and 40% have no paid sick leave, so that even a minor illness or injury can lead to a family economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, in addition to annual paid sick leave for preventive health care and short term illnesses, from time to time workers need longer periods of time off to welcome a new child, recover from surgery, or care for an aging parent; and

WHEREAS, family economic security, social equity, and shared economic prosperity will be furthered by ensuring that all workers have access to paid leave to deal with health and family needs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle and other jurisdictions have successfully adopted paid sick days standards that protect public health, worker income, and business prosperity; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, the Washington State Legislature passed a limited Family Leave and Medical Insurance program, but did not set up a mechanism for funding the program and has repeatedly postponed implementation; and

WHEREAS, other states, including California, New Jersey, and Rhode Island have successfully established programs that provide partial wage replacement during extended leaves to care for a new child or sick family member, or for the worker’s own disability or serious health condition, funded through modest payroll taxes; and

WHEREAS, the “Washington Work and Family Coalition” is working to establish statewide standards for paid sick days and to fully fund and expand the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program to include caring for ill family members and the worker’s own disability as well as care of a new child, along with longer periods of leave, higher benefits, and premiums based on a percentage of workers’ pay;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the 36th District Democrats support the principle and practice of paid sick days and family and medical leave insurance and will work with the “Washington Work and Family Coalition” to promote Paid Sick Days and an expanded family and medical leave insurance program in the state of Washington; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that the 36th Legislative District Democrats will forward this resolution to our state legislators to ask for their support and will consider candidates positions on Paid Sick Days and Family and Medical Leave Insurance in making endorsements.