

RESOLUTION: Protecting Social Security and Medicare

WHEREAS Social Security and Medicare are among the most significant and politically popular legislative accomplishments of the Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS both programs are currently being threatened with significant cuts by the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, which is chaired by vocal public opponents of both programs and is unaccountable to voters; and

WHEREAS long-term unemployment and the concomitant spending down of retirement savings, combined with widespread age discrimination, have been particularly devastating to people over 55; and

WHEREAS Representative Raul Grijalva (D.-Ariz.) is currently circulating a letter in Congress in defense of Social Security; and

WHEREAS coalitions of union members, health care advocates, retirees and others close to retirement age are circulating pledges to defend Social Security and Medicare; and

WHEREAS it would be politically wise to give “Strong Democrats” – 59% of whom are women and 73% over 50, in the state of Washington – some assurance that their elected officials will not allow serious threats to their economic security to gain traction; and

WHEREAS the widespread popularity of Social Security and Medicare makes defending those programs a powerful political weapon against Republicans (as Representative Dave Reichert realized in deciding to announce his opposition to raising the Social Security retirement age); and

WHEREAS no member of our congressional delegation has yet signed the Grijalva letter, and only Representative Jim McDermott and candidate Suzan DelBene have agreed to sign the Social Security defense pledge;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the King County Democrats request all of our U.S. representatives and candidates to sign:

- (a) Representative Grijalva’s letter,
- (b) the “Social Security Works-WA” pledge, and
- (c) the Defense of Medicare pledge generated by “Don’t Cut Our Medicare”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our representatives and candidates be queried as their intended actions in furtherance of this resolution.

Adopted 9/28/2010 by King County Democratic Central Committee