

## **REPEAL OF THE FEDERAL DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT**

WHEREAS, in the wake of imposition of the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy on a reluctant military leadership, a Defense of Marriage Act was enacted and signed into law in 1996 (P.L. No. 104-199, 110 Stat. 2419),

- (a) limiting federal recognition of marriage and attendant federal benefits to unions involving one man and one woman, and
- (b) providing, contrary to the Full Faith and Credit Clause (U.S. Constitution, Article IV), that no state need treat as valid a marriage between persons of the same sex, even if valid under the laws of the state where the marriage was performed; and

WHEREAS said Act, commonly known as “DOMA,”

- (a) was based on the manifestly fallacious notion that heterosexual marriages in the United States are endangered by the prospect of same-sex couples marrying, and
- (b) deprives same-sex couples of the opportunity to be accorded a vast array of rights and benefits available under federal law to heterosexual couples; and

WHEREAS, since the enactment of DOMA, several states have, by legislation or court decision upholding equality of rights under law, enabled same-sex marriage and accorded full validity thereto under the laws of those states; and

WHEREAS our President was elected on a program including the assertion that “Obama also believes we need to fully repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and enact legislation that would ensure that the 1,100+ federal legal rights and benefits currently provided on the basis of marital status are extended to same-sex couples . . .” (campaign website, 2008); and

WHEREAS the Platform of the 46<sup>th</sup> District Democrats, adopted July 26, 2008, declares that “We support [e]very adult couple’s right to marry and be afforded all civil rights associated with marriage, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity”; and

WHEREAS the Platform of the King County Democrats, adopted April 13, 2008, declares that “The rights and responsibilities conferred by marriage should be available to all committed adult couples regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity”; and

WHEREAS the Platform of the Washington State Democratic Party, adopted July 14, 2008, declares that “We believe [m]arriage is a human right and should not be restricted by sexual orientation or gender identity”; and

WHEREAS the Platform of the National Democratic Party, adopted August 25, 2008, declares that “We oppose the Defense of Marriage Act and all attempts to use this issue to divide us”;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DOMA should be repealed without further delay, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that our Senators and Congressional Representatives be notified of this Resolution and queried as to their intended actions in furtherance thereof.

Adopted by the King County Democratic Central Committee, January 25, 2010