

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING CUTS IN PENTAGON SPENDING

Whereas automatic across-the-board spending cuts went into effect on March 1, reducing discretionary spending by \$1 trillion over the next ten years; and

Whereas Congress has not yet agreed upon a strategic budget package to undo the sequester cuts; and

Whereas Congress is beginning the process of setting Fiscal Year 2014 spending levels for the Pentagon; and

Whereas Pentagon spending, excluding nuclear weapons and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, has increased by 35% in the last decade, while domestic discretionary spending has increased by only 12% during that period; and

Whereas the Government Accountability Office (GAO) identified \$70 billion wasted on major weapons systems in a period of just two years; and

Whereas reductions of military spending at the levels required by sequestration would constitute a 31% reduction from the 2010 wartime peak spending level, which would be smaller than the reductions following the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold Wars; and

Whereas the Pentagon can protect Americans by reshaping the budget and accompanying strategy to focus on 21st century threats; and

Whereas think tanks and experts from across the political spectrum, including the Simpson-Bowles Commission, the Cato Institute, Taxpayers for Common Sense and the Project on Defense Alternatives, have identified hundreds of billions of dollars of Pentagon spending reductions that would not harm national security; and

Whereas Washington State will suffer this year as a result of domestic sequester cuts, including 160 teaching jobs at risk, 440 fewer low-income students receiving college aid, 2850 fewer children receiving vaccinations, and \$143,000 less to aid victims of domestic violence;

Therefore, be it resolved that we call on our Congressional Representatives and Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell to work to develop a budget for Fiscal Year 2014 that balances the undoing of domestic sequester cuts with significant reductions in wasteful Pentagon spending, while preserving critical services for veterans and active duty military members;

Adopted June 25, 2013, by King County Democratic Central Committee

Originated by the 30th District Democrats,
Tim Burns, Chair