

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

WHEREAS Iran has for several years been attempting to develop nuclear weapons capability that, if successfully completed, would endanger the security of the Middle East, including that of Israel; and

WHEREAS the Platform of the King County Democratic Party, adopted in 2014, declares that “Our government must . . . act to accomplish nuclear nonproliferation, arms reduction, and international control of fissile material,” and the current State Democratic Platform specifically calls for “continued negotiations between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to put in place revised and enhanced nuclear safeguard and inspection agreements, consistent with the United States recommitment to a world free of nuclear weapons;” and

WHEREAS, after more than two years of intensive negotiations, the “P5+1 Coalition” (the United States, United Kingdom, France, China, Russia and Germany, together with the European Union) have reached an agreement with Iran to prevent it from developing a nuclear weapon for 10-15 years; and

WHEREAS the agreement requires Iran to give up over 2/3 of its nuclear-enrichment centrifuges and reduce its present stockpile of enriched uranium by 98%, while lowering the enrichment level of its retained remainder to 3.67%; and

WHEREAS the agreement further provides that Iran’s heavy-water reactor at Arak must be rendered unusable for production of weapons-grade plutonium, and bans construction of further heavy-water reactors for at least 15 years; and

WHEREAS the foregoing measures would increase Iran’s “breakout time” (the minimum time needed to produce enough fissile material for one rudimentary bomb) from the current 2-3 months, to a year or more; and

WHEREAS the IAEA (the world’s intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in nuclear matters) will have 150 inspectors in place to ensure Iran’s compliance with the above provisions; and

WHEREAS some of the international sanctions on trading with Iran will remain in effect for 5-8 years pending its full compliance with other aspects of the agreement; and.

WHEREAS Iran’s “millennial” generation has been eagerly attempting to move their country toward improved relations with the West, as evidenced in part by their election of a President demonstrably more moderate than his predecessor; and

WHEREAS, if this agreement does not win Congressional approval, some or all of the P5+1 Coalition will weaken or abandon their present participation in maintaining sanctions, leaving the United States in a far weaker position with respect to Iran than at present – with neither an inspections regime nor effective sanctions to restrain Iran from developing nuclear weapons;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we send a copy of this resolution to the President and our Congressional delegation to let them know that we (1) endorse the Iran Nuclear Agreement as in the best interests of the United States and international accord, and (2) thank our Senators and Congressmembers for their recent support of that Agreement.

Adopted Sept. 23, 2015 by the King County Democratic Central Committee