

Resolution Recognizing American Muslims and Affirming Their Constitutional Rights.

WHEREAS religious freedom is guaranteed to all Americans by the Constitution and laws of the United States;

WHEREAS a diversity of religious beliefs, traditions, and heritages bring strength to our country;

WHEREAS American Muslims believe in the right and freedom of all U.S. citizens to live and worship in their own way;

WHEREAS American Muslims share the same American values and freedoms that we all cherish, and American Muslims uphold the Constitution and the laws of the United States;

WHEREAS according to the U.S. Dept. of Defense, over 10,000 American Muslims serve in our nation's armed forces, and many, including U.S. Army Specialist Kareem Khan, U.S. Army Major James Ahearn, U.S. Army Specialist Rasheed Sahib, and U.S. Army Captain Humayun Khan, are among the thousands of U.S. military personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country while serving in combat missions over the past 15 years;

WHEREAS our nation benefits from the estimated 50,000 American Muslim doctors nationwide who provide compassionate care, humanitarian services and save American lives;

WHEREAS American Muslims give back to our local communities as volunteers in fire departments, PTAs, food banks and many other organizations;

WHEREAS never before in our nation's history have anti-Muslim hate crimes been as high in number or in severity as in 2015. Throughout 2015 on average at least one daily report of a hate crimes targeting an American Muslim or someone perceived as Muslim was received by American Muslim civil rights organizations;

WHEREAS in times like these, fair-minded leaders across our nation have a duty to publicly and vocally affirm American values of religious freedom, and publicly and vocally tell stories of the lives and contributions of American Muslims they have encountered;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Party reaffirms its long-standing support for religious freedom;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Party stands strongly for the ideal that American Muslims deserve the same opportunities as all Americans—to build better futures for their families and children; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Washington State Democratic Party condemns any legislation or statements that run contrary to this ideal