

Increase Investments to End Homelessness in Washington!

WHEREAS everyone should have the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home;

WHEREAS the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction identified 35,551 public school students who experienced homelessness during the 2014-2015 school year, a 36% increase over 2010-2011;

WHEREAS during the most recent King County One Night Count of people who are homeless and without shelter in January 2016, volunteers identified 4,505 people surviving outside between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., after area shelters were full (a 19% increase over the 2015 count);

WHEREAS the annual statewide point-in-time count identified 19,418 people experiencing homelessness in January 2015;

WHEREAS housing affordability and homelessness have reached a crisis level in communities throughout Washington;

WHEREAS Seattle Mayor Ed Murray and King County Executive Dow Constantine have declared states of emergency due to rising homelessness;

WHEREAS a national study found that for every \$100 increase in average rents, homelessness increases by 15% in urban areas and by 39% in rural and suburban areas;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 46th District Democrats call for a significant increase in investment in the State Housing Trust Fund to create newly affordable homes for very low-income households in Washington; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 46th District Democrats call for significantly increased state investments in mental health/substance abuse treatment services to prevent and end homelessness; and,

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the 46th District Democrats call upon the Washington State Congressional delegation to work to increase HUD housing and services and to support Sen. Maria Cantwell's bill to lift the cap on federal tax credits for affordable housing.

Submitted by Nancy Miller, Jenessa Hope and Jennifer Ranes to the 46th District Democrats for consideration at its April 17, 2016 meeting.

Recommended Do Pass by the 46th Democrats Platform & Resolutions Committee