



**Washington State's 42nd Legislative District Democratic Committee
Resolution Supporting Initiative 940 - "De-Escalate Washington"**

WHEREAS progressive action against injustice is a core part of our Democratic Party Platform;

WHEREAS we take note of and recognize that law enforcement has a unique role in our communities;

WHEREAS we affirm the role of law enforcement to protect human life and believe that accountability and public trust are a key part of law and order;

WHEREAS in Washington State, like the rest of the nation, law enforcement use of deadly force has a disproportionate impact on marginalized communities, particularly persons of color, LGBTQ, persons with disabilities, youth, immigrants, with a disproportionate impact on the Black community and Native Americans, and with data showing that one-quarter of uses of deadly force involve a person with mental health issues;

WHEREAS the duty to preserve life and protect the community also includes the underlying respect for humanity, and a duty to render first aid at the scene;

WHEREAS the law in Washington state on the use of deadly force by law enforcement (RCW 9A.16.040) has been called the most "egregious" in the nation due to a de facto immunity for unjustified use of force;

WHEREAS the public needs confidence in the review of use of deadly force, particularly when it results in death or serious injury, and has called for independent investigations to provide for a credible outcome;

WHEREAS Initiative 940, which is an initiative to the Legislature, calls for violence de-escalation, mental health, and first aid training, requires that first aid be rendered at the scene, removes the de facto immunity and replaces it with an objective and subjective good faith test, both of which must be met, requires a completely independent investigation, and includes diverse community members at the table to develop policies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the 42nd Legislative District Democrats, endorse Initiative 940, also known as De-Escalate Washington; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we call for wide-spread support through signature gathering to assure that Initiative 940 qualifies for the ballot, encourage coming to the table with law enforcement at all levels in this work, and will work for the passage of Initiative 940 during the 2018 legislative session; and will pursue its passage through to the November 2018 general election should that be necessary.

The Executive Board reviewed and recommended passage of the resolution. The membership of the 42nd Legislative District Democrats voted to waive a second reading due to timeliness and approved this resolution unanimously on October 14, 2017.

Erin Dewey

Chair, 42nd Legislative District Democratic Committee

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