

## **RESIDENTS' RIGHTS RESOLUTION**

WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes that long-term care facilities are a critical part of the state's long-term care services system. It is the intent of the legislature that individuals who reside in long-term care facilities receive appropriate services, be treated with courtesy, and continue to enjoy their basic civil and legal rights;

WHEREAS, it is also the intent of the legislature that long-term care facility residents have the opportunity to exercise reasonable control over life decisions. The legislature finds that choice, participation, privacy, and the opportunity to engage in religious, political, civic, recreational, and other social activities foster a sense of self-worth and enhance the quality of life for long-term care residents;

WHEREAS, the legislature finds that the public interest would be best served by providing the same basic resident rights in all long-term care settings. Residents in nursing facilities are guaranteed certain rights by federal law and regulation, 42 U.S.C. 1396r and 42 C.F.R. part 483. It is the intent of the legislature to extend those basic rights to residents in veterans' homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes;

WHEREAS, the legislature intends that a facility should care for its residents in a manner and in an environment that promotes maintenance or enhancement of each resident's quality of life. A resident should have a safe, clean, comfortable, and homelike environment, allowing the resident to use his or her personal belongings to the extent possible;

WHEREAS, the statements above are all contained in RCW Chapter 70.129, Long Term Care Residents Rights, in RCW 70.129.005;

WHEREAS, the legislature extended basic rights of residents of nursing homes to residents of veterans' homes, boarding homes, and adult family homes, but by apparent oversight did not extend those rights to individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in intermediate care facilities for the developmentally disabled known as ICF/MR;

WHEREAS, individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in ICF/MR should have the same rights that other disabled individuals receive under Chapter 70.129; and,

WHEREAS, House Bill 1407 will amend Chapter 70.129 to provide equal rights for residents of ICF/MR;

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Washington State Democrats actively support House Bill 1407; and,

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the Washington State Democrats will actively urge its members to contact their state legislators to express support for House Bill 1407 which provide equal rights for individuals with developmental disability for residents of ICF/MR.