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**RESOLUTION TO ENSHRINE WORKERS' RIGHTS TO
ORGANIZE AND COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN IN THE
WASHINGTON STATE CONSTITUTION**

WHEREAS, pro-union policy can make a real difference to Washington households by raising their incomes, shortening their hours of work, improving their work environments, and boosting their job satisfaction, and in doing so, unions can help to make Washington state's economy more equitable and robust; and,

WHEREAS, unions were legalized in Washington on March 19, 1919, in the wake of the Seattle General Strike the month prior; and,

WHEREAS, the right of public-sector workers in Washington to organize and collectively bargain can be taken away by a simple majority vote of the legislature and the stroke of a pen of the governor; and,

WHEREAS, the rights of private-sector workers in Washington state to organize and collectively bargain can be taken away by a simple majority of Congress and the U.S. Supreme Court; and,

WHEREAS, attacks on workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain are not only occurring in Washington but all over the United States; and,

WHEREAS, on Labor Day in 1960, John F. Kennedy said, "Those who would destroy or further limit the rights of organized labor — those who would cripple collective bargaining or prevent organization of the unorganized — do a disservice to the cause of democracy"; and,

WHEREAS, U.S. Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan Jr. noted in 1977, "State constitutions ... are a font of individual liberties, their protections often extending beyond those required by the Supreme Court's interpretation of federal law" ; and,

WHEREAS, an amendment to the Washington State Constitution that enshrines workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain would create a legal backstop against two persistent lines of state legislative attack on U.S. workers' basic rights to unionize: 1)

threats to repeal or erode public-sector workers' collective bargaining rights, and 2) threats to constrain private-sector workers' collective bargaining rights with so-called "right-to-work" restrictions that prohibit unions and employers from negotiating union security agreements into union contracts; and,

WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO (WSLC) to propose, support, and promote legislation favorable to the interest of workers and organized labor; and,

WHEREAS, other states across the country have amended their state constitutions to protect and provide their residents the right to collectively bargain; and,

WHEREAS, labor unions are as popular as ever with the public, and organizing and collective bargaining are core tenets of unionism; now therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that to ensure workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain are less vulnerable to the political whims of the Washington State Legislature, the WSLC will support efforts to secure an amendment to the Washington State Constitution; and be it finally,

RESOLVED, that the WSLC will engage its allies in the legislature, its affiliates, and other labor organizations to assist and work alongside it in this endeavor to enshrine in the Washington State Constitution workers' rights to organize and collectively bargain.