

Resolution in favor of Guaranteed Comprehensive Health Care in Washington

This resolution was passed without objection at the Democratic State Convention in June 2024 and is now part of the Washington State Democratic platform. It addresses the restrictions that are imposed by Catholic and Catholic affiliated health care systems through the Ethical and Religious Directives, the foundation for the Catholic policies in these institutions.

Since its adoption other Washington State Democrats have adopted it as well, including:

- Pierce County Democrats
- All Legislative Districts (LDs) covering Pierce, Kitsap, Thurston and King Counties (LDs 2, 23, 25, 26, 28, 31, 46, 47, and 48)

Whereas Comprehensive Health Care encompasses access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care services, including abortion, gender-affirming health care, alternative care health and end of life care;

Whereas faith-based health care systems are governed by Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs) that could delay or deny patient care based on these directives and patients should be free of religious directives when seeking health care in Washington state;

Whereas due to the recent expansion and consolidation of faith-based health systems, ERDs are more impactful to increasing numbers of patients and comprehensive services are limited or not available in ever increasing areas in the state;

Whereas comprehensive care that is governed by ERDs is not provided by faith-based health care systems and referrals for the denied treatments are not provided to affected patients;

Whereas faith-based health care systems delay or deny medically necessary care due to governance of religious directives thus limiting and hindering comprehensive health care for conditions including but not limited to miscarriages, gender affirming care, death with dignity, and sterilization (tubal ligation, vasectomy);

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (WSDCC), urge our elected representatives and senators to pass legislation requiring faith-based health care systems not to prejudice the health care they provide due to ethical and religious directives and to prevent faith-based health care systems from withholding care that is otherwise legally available in Washington state.

Therefore, be it finally resolved that a copy of this resolution shall be sent to all our elected representatives.