

Rejecting Donations from Private Prison and Detention Center Companies

WHEREAS the private prison and detention center industry in the United States is a multi-billion dollar industry involving more than 3100 companies incarcerating over 126,000 people;

WHEREAS the public interest is not served by contracts between governments and private prison operators that typically include “lockup quotas” requiring a guaranteed minimum number of prisoners or compensation for empty beds and do NOT include incentives to produce desirable outcomes such as low recidivism through job training and treatment;

WHEREAS for-profit prisons and detention centers are not subject to the same oversight that government-run jails and prisons are, and meet profit goals through negligence towards prisoners and maintaining substandard living conditions;

WHEREAS the private prison and detention center industry spent \$1.6 million lobbying, donating to candidates and political parties, and funding super-PACs in 2016, mostly to Republican candidates, and has already spent over a million in 2018;

WHEREAS the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency alone spends more than \$2 billion a year on immigrant detention through private jails;

WHEREAS large private prison firms evaded hundreds of millions of dollars in income taxes by reorganizing as real estate investment trusts (2013), and have received preferential tax windfalls from the 2017 Republican tax bill;

WHEREAS the Obama administration in 2016 announced it was ending incarceration of federal prisoners in private facilities (but not immigration detainees), and 2018 Democratic platform of the local, state, and national level, as well as both 2016 Democratic presidential candidates, called for an end to private incarceration;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Jefferson County Democrats call for the end to private, for-profit incarceration in the United States;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County Democrats will not accept donations from companies in the for-profit prison industry;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Jefferson County Democrats call upon the Democratic National Committee, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Democratic Senate Campaign Committee, Washington State Democratic Party as well as our elected representatives to reject, return, or donate to charity donations from the for-profit prison industry; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Jefferson County Democrats provide a copy of this resolution to the DNC, DCCC, DSCC, and Democratic candidates within LD24.

Submitted by Linda Sutton, Precinct Committee Officer, Precinct 104

Trish Walat, Precinct Committee Officer, Precinct 706

Bethel Prescott, Precinct Committee Officer, Precinct 306

Lauri Chambers, District 2 woman

Cynthia Koan, District 1 woman

Kristina Hestenes Stimson, Chair Elections Standing Committee

Drew Hendricks, Jefferson County Democrats, member

Norm Norton, Jefferson County Democrats, member

David Johnson, Jefferson County Democrats, member

James Mollo, Jefferson County Democrats, member

Linda Brewster, Jefferson County Democrats, member

Dayna Neely, Precinct Committee Officer, Precinct 305

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