

## **RESOLUTION ON RAISING STATE REVENUES TO AVOID DEVASTATING CUTS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

**WHEREAS** a no-new-revenue state budget would gut core services to the poor and suspend programs such as all-day kindergarten as a way to close a projected \$2.6 billion budget shortfall, and;

**WHEREAS** major cuts include a sharp reduction in financial aid for college students and eliminating state-subsidized Basic Health insurance for thousands of low-income workers, as well as General Assistance for people who can't work because of disabilities (GA-U), \$339 a month and Medicaid eligibility, and;

**WHEREAS** many transitional housing programs depend on GA-U for a significant part of their budgets, and eliminating GA-U would threaten their continued existence, and;

**WHEREAS** half of GA-U recipients have a diagnosis of mental illness and removing them from Medicaid would cause thousands to become homeless, without medication, and;

**WHEREAS** Democratic leaders in the House and Senate joined the Governor recently in calling for new taxes to help close the budget gap, and;

**WHEREAS** as our platform states Democrats value: health care for all, high-quality public education and fighting poverty and ending homelessness, and;

**WHEREAS** exemptions have been written into the state tax code in order to provide identifiable public benefits, yet several have failed to produce the promised benefits; and

**WHEREAS** non-performing tax exemptions cost the state billions in lost revenue, and;

**WHEREAS** the State has the most regressive tax system in the country, where the lowest-income people pay 17% of their income in state and local taxes, while the highest-income people pay only 2.9% of their income in such taxes, and this violates the core principle of economic justice;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats urge the Legislature to repeal under-performing tax exemptions, beginning with the largest, and sunset all tax exemptions every 10 years, and;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats urge the Legislature to reform our regressive tax system and to implement a state income tax on high-income earners, and;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the 34<sup>th</sup> District Democrats urge the Legislature to raise at least two-thirds of the budget gap in revenues, balanced by one-third or less in cuts to services.

\*\*Adopted by the membership on February 10, 2010