

Resolution 13-2

Gun Safety

Adopted on August 21, 2013
By the Clallam County Central Committee

WHEREAS: The Declaration of Independence states “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness; and

WHEREAS, the U. S., Constitution embodies similar values, expressed in its preamble, “We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare...;” and

WHEREAS, the Washington State constitution endorses these principles in Article 1 Sec 2 by stating the “Constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land...;” and

WHEREAS, Washington State legislators have instituted measures to promote the general welfare with laws regulating traffic safety which have decreased the number of deaths by automobiles; and

WHEREAS, in Washington State gun deaths now outnumber traffic deaths, which disturbs the general welfare and deprives citizens of life; and

WHEREAS, Washington State Article 1 Sec 5 grants citizens freedom of speech but also notes they must be “responsible for the abuse of that right...;” and

WHEREAS it is equally important to develop responsible rules regarding gun purchases and ownership to reduce the rate of gun deaths in our state; and

WHEREAS, several states have adopted restrictions on firearms; and

WHEREAS, research by Boston Children’s Hospital found that states with the strictest firearm laws have the lowest rate of shooting deaths; and

WHEREAS, polling shows that most citizens of Washington State desire to decrease gun deaths in our state; and

WHEREAS, the majority of citizens endorses universal background checks for gun sales as a means to control the access to firearms by those persons deemed most dangerous;

THEREFORE, the Clallam County Democrats resolve that Sen. Jim Hargrove, Rep. Kevin Van de Wege and Rep. Steve Tharinger work to pass reasonable measures, such as universal background checks for gun purchasers and limiting the capacities of ammunition clips, which are likely to reduce Washington State’s high rate of gun deaths.