

1 **ICE REFORM, OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION**

2 **WHEREAS** the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was created in 2003 as part of the
3 Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has an FY2018 budget of over \$8.67 billion, employs over
4 20,000 persons, and is looking to hire over 6,000 more support personnel; and

5 **WHEREAS** the duties performed by ICE were previously handled by other agencies, including the FBI
6 and Customs and Border Patrol (CBP); and

7 **WHEREAS** CBP and ICE coordinate receipt and processing of immigrants and asylum seekers
8 including families and unaccompanied legal minors, and have engaged in fraudulent coercion of non-
9 English speaking parents to sign documents relinquishing rights to their children and turning them
10 over to foster/adoption agencies for care and disposition; and

11 **WHEREAS** ICE employs private for-profit prisons, and is the only law enforcement agency in the
12 United States with a minimum detention quota, which rewards detentions of refugees and asylum
13 seekers for questionable charges; and

14 **WHEREAS** the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) contracts with private and church-
15 run foster and adoption management organizations, without proper supervision to avoid abuse of
16 children and fraudulent foster parent assignment practices; and

17 **WHEREAS** ICE and DHHS have failed to properly coordinate removal of legal minors (including
18 infants) from parents or custodial adult, and has transferred them to for-profit holding facilities and
19 private foster care or adoption organizations such that minor children and infants are not traceable to
20 parents; and

21 **WHEREAS** ICE has, under 2017 administration direction, separated and detained more than 2,000
22 children of asylum seekers, who have not committed any crime, from their parents, holding them in
23 detention centers and including infants who are reportedly left alone in cages; and

24 **WHEREAS** ICE is largely unaccountable and self-regulating, and the DHS Office of Inspector General
25 revealed that only 3% of the 1,224 sexual abuse complaints by immigrants in ICE custody filed between
26 Jan. 2010 and June 2017 were investigated, and additional reports have been made in 2018; and

27 **WHEREAS** hundreds of detainees have died in ICE custody, many due to mistreatment and
28 substandard care and abuse, and these conditions have been covered-up by ICE officials; and

29 **WHEREAS** the above practices have been in place for other administrations, but these abuses have
30 accelerated in the past 18 months.

31 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats support enforcing regulations
32 that meet the standards of previous agencies whose duties they assumed, and that an independent
33 entity be established to ensure that that new standards are put in place and observed, and that an
34 oversight and enforcement entity be established; and

35 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that CBP be ordered to immediately halt blocking access to
36 border crossing sites by refugees and asylum seekers, halt all separation of infants and legal minor
37 children from parents, and halt all separation of those asserting refugee or asylum status from infants
38 and legal minor children; and

1 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that no infants or legal minor children will be transferred to any
2 foster care or adoption agency unless or until a formal status hearing for parents with legal counsel
3 provided to parents is completed.

4 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** no minor children will be sent to a court regarding their refugee
5 or asylum status without their own legal counsel, and in case of young children a professional social
6 service guardian *ad litum* to ensure their interests are protected; and

7 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the current and reorganized CBP/ICE be precluded from
8 use of for-profit facilities and instead be required to directly manage and staff all such facilities and in
9 the interim, CBP/ICE staff and contractor staff be subject to psychological evaluation in order to be
10 hired or retained, with annual reassessment to eliminate pedophiles, sadists, sociopaths, etc. from
11 employment; and

12 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that DHS will be precluded from accepting any legal minor or
13 infant or young child without detailed information certified by ICE management as to exact location of
14 parent or guardian; and

15 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that both ICE and the DHHS maintain identical data bases with
16 current location and status information for both parents and children in their joint custody; and

17 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the human rights abuses allegedly conducted by ICE be
18 immediately ended, whether by ICE or its successor agencies; and

19 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democrats call for an Independent
20 Commission to be established with *subpoena* power to determine:

- 21 1. Who provided orders to CBP to block access to border crossings;
- 22 2. Who ordered coercion of parents to relinquish parental rights by misrepresenting the situation;
- 23 3. Who ordered separation of parents from infants and minor children;
- 24 4. Who ordered that ICE transfer infants and minor children without clear traceability to parents to
25 DHHS;
- 26 5. Who in DHHS accepted these infants and children without such information;
- 27 6. Who from CBP/ICE met with DHHS staff to work out the plan and implementation process
28 including review by lawyers for legality;
- 29 7. Who ordered that sending non-English speaking minor children including preschoolers into court
30 without counsel for deportation hearings was legally or morally acceptable; and

31
32 **FURTHERMORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Independent Commission will be required to
33 recommend corrective actions including prosecutions based on relevant federal and international laws
34 and treaties; and

35 **FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED** that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all members of Congress
36 and Senate from Washington State.

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38 Submitted by the Benton County Democratic Platform Committee to the Benton County Democratic
39 Central Committee (Date Submitted 8/05/2018)

1 Adopted by the Benton County Democratic Central Committee and by the 8th LDDO August 15, 2018.

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3 To be submitted to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee September 2, 2018.

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5 References

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10 <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/ICE%20FY18%20Budget.pdf>

11 <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/6/5/174284060/border-families-asylum-illegal>

12 [https://qz.com/1341985/the-aclu-claimsw-immigrant-parents-in-the-us-did-not-understand-contract-that-](https://qz.com/1341985/the-aclu-claimsw-immigrant-parents-in-the-us-did-not-understand-contract-that-waived-their-right-to-be-reunited-with-their-children)
13 [waived-their-right-to-be-reunited-with-their-children](https://qz.com/1341985/the-aclu-claimsw-immigrant-parents-in-the-us-did-not-understand-contract-that-waived-their-right-to-be-reunited-with-their-children)