

**WSDCCRES – 985 – 210925 – PASSED – GOV – INCREASING SIZE OF US HOUSE**

**Expanding the Size of the US House of Representatives**

**WHEREAS** the Permanent Apportionment Act of 1929 caps the size of the House of Representatives at 435 people; and

**WHEREAS** in 2018 there was an estimated one voting member of the House for about 747,000 Americans, which is the highest population-to-representative ratio among a peer group of industrialized democracies, and the highest it's been in U.S. history; and

**WHEREAS** in the century-plus since the number of House seats first reached its current total of 435 (excluding nonvoting delegates), the representation ratio has more than tripled – from one representative for every 209,447 people in 1910 to one for every 747,184; and

**WHEREAS** the population-to-representation ratio varies greatly across states, with the representative from Montana representing over a million people from 2012-2022 and the representative from Rhode Island representing around 529,000 throughout the decade; and

**WHEREAS** the platform of the Washington State Democrats calls for full congressional representation and statehood for the District of Columbia, which will further increase the population-to-representation ratio if the size of the House remains fixed at 435.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee support federal legislation to increase the size of the House of Representatives; and

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington State Democratic Central Committee call upon our federal delegation to co-sponsor H.R. 996, or similar legislation, which would establish a commission to make recommendations on the appropriate size of membership of the House of Representatives and the method by which Members are elected.

**PASSED AT THE SEPTEMBER 25 MEETING OF THE WSDCC**