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HOUSE BILL 2802

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State of Washington

56th Legislature

2000 Regular Session

By Representatives Lambert, Campbell, Carrell, Benson, Schindler, Cox, Boldt, Mulliken, Delvin, Koster and Wood

Read first time 01/20/2000. Referred to Committee on Judiciary.

1 AN ACT Relating to the free speech rights of judges and judicial  
2 candidates; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the right of free  
5 speech, especially political speech, as guaranteed under the First  
6 Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, section 5 of  
7 the Washington state Constitution and that this right extends fully to  
8 judges and judicial candidates of our state.

9 The legislature further recognizes that judges and judicial  
10 candidates may choose to exercise these rights in order to better  
11 inform the public as to their judicial philosophy and to educate the  
12 people on a wide range of issues important to those who have a civic  
13 duty to elect them.

14 The legislature hereby declares its belief that judges and judicial  
15 candidates have a right to freely express and incorporate their beliefs  
16 and opinions in any statement made regarding any campaign or potential  
17 campaign for judicial office or any issue pertaining thereto without  
18 legal or professional retribution, negative consequence, or penalty to

1 the standing, evaluation, or privilege of the judge or the judicial  
2 candidate.

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