SENATE RESOLUTION

8633

By Senators Kuderer and Billig

WHEREAS, The Persian New Year, or Nowruz, originated in ancient Persia more than 3,000 years ago and is celebrated annually on the spring equinox, which this year fell on March 20th; and

WHEREAS, Nowruz is celebrated by nearly 300 million people across the globe of different faiths and diverse communities, and by more than 1 million Americans, including tens of thousands in Washington state; and

WHEREAS, In this time where mistrust and fear often threaten to divide us, the spirit of Nowruz inspires us to realize our commonalities and strive for new levels of compassion, understanding, and love for our fellow human beings irrespective of religion or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, Iranian-Americans have made and continue to make noteworthy and lasting contributions to Washington state through their leadership in business, government, higher education, medicine, military service, and many other arenas; and

WHEREAS, Nowruz presents a fitting opportunity to recognize these contributions; and

WHEREAS, Nowruz is a time for all of us to come together and celebrate the universal values of generosity, compassion, and selflessness;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate celebrate the honored holiday of Nowruz; recognize the historical and cultural significance thereof; and wish a happy and prosperous new year to all.