

SENATE RESOLUTION

8620

By Senator Wilson, C.

1 WHEREAS, April 7th is World Health Day; and

2 WHEREAS, Access to the outdoors can promote health for all
3 people; and

4 WHEREAS, Over 23 percent of people in Washington state identify
5 as having a disability; and

6 WHEREAS, To truly achieve our equity goals, our state must
7 promote the health and overall well-being of people with
8 disabilities, respect their dignity and needs, and include them in
9 meaningful opportunities for recreation and growth; and

10 WHEREAS, Washington state's beautiful outdoor spaces include a
11 world-class network of hiking trails, awe-inspiring landmarks like
12 Mt. Rainier, the Olympic National Rainforest, the Ginko Petrified
13 Forest, and more, which provide unique and endless opportunities for
14 exploration, education, and play; and

15 WHEREAS, The Washington State Leadership Board, a statutory
16 nonprofit organization, is directed by the State Legislature to
17 promote opportunities for youth, including youth with disabilities,
18 and does so through its two-year Boundless Washington program; and

19 WHEREAS, Boundless Washington is a statewide program that seeks
20 to turn Washington state's equity goals into a reality by creating
21 opportunities for young people with disabilities to explore the
22 outdoors and build their leadership skills; and

1 WHEREAS, The Boundless Washington program has attracted support
2 from prominent local sports teams, including the Seattle Storm and
3 the Seattle Mariners, due to its emphasis on equity for young people
4 with disabilities; and

5 WHEREAS, The Boundless Washington program operates in partnership
6 with our state's premier outdoor disability service provider,
7 Outdoors for All; and the nationally-acclaimed No Barriers
8 organization; and

9 WHEREAS, The Boundless Washington program was inspired by Erik
10 Weihenmayer, the first blind person to summit Mt. Everest, and aims
11 to instill the same sense of audacity and potential in each of the
12 Boundless Washington fellows; and

13 WHEREAS, The Boundless Washington program was created through a
14 partnership between the Washington State Leadership Board and the
15 Lieutenant Governor's office; and

16 WHEREAS, The Boundless Washington program recently accepted its
17 second cohort of young leaders with disabilities; and

18 WHEREAS, The inaugural Boundless Washington cohort has
19 demonstrated great resilience and creativity for the past year,
20 remaining active and engaged while practicing social distancing; and

21 WHEREAS, The Boundless Washington fellows exhibit the care for
22 community, independent-mindedness, and self-confidence that
23 characterize good leadership and inspire those around them;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate reaffirm the
25 importance of the Boundless Washington program in promoting strong,
26 equitable leadership in Washington state, and commend the Boundless
27 Washington fellows: Noah Sutherland, Ayden Harris, Charles Johnson,
28 Grace Perleberg, Ritika Khanal, Jaida Barrows, Derrek Butterfield,
29 Josiah Morrow, Kelhana Miller, Finn Paynich, Annie Guo, and Wesley
30 McNutt; and

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
32 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
33 Washington State Leadership Board staff to share with the Boundless
34 Washington fellows and their families.

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