By Senators Hatfield, Honeyford, Haugen, Delvin, Schoesler, Shin, Becker, Hobbs, and Eide

WHEREAS, The 4-H Youth Development Program of Washington State University Extension has assisted the youth of Washington in developing skills that will serve them now and in their future lives; and

WHEREAS, Since 1902, the program has centered on teaching young people to become productive members of society by fostering citizenship, science, math and technology literacy, health and wellness, communication, and decision-making skills; and

WHEREAS, These programs have helped participants learn about a wide variety of subjects, including science, family living, applied arts, and government activism; and

WHEREAS, Nearly 90,000 youth and 6,500 adult volunteers in 1,490 groups make up the ranks of 4-H membership in Washington State; and

WHEREAS, These programs work with traditional community clubs and reach young people through urban groups, special interest groups, nutrition programs, after-school programs, camping, and interagency learning experiences; and

WHEREAS, Through 4-H, 600,000 youths in Washington learn about rural economic development and responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Through 4-H, more than 6.5 million American youths do the same each year; and

WHEREAS, 4-H will continue its dedication to empower young people to become active global citizens and realize the value of taking part in local, regional, state, national, and international community issues; and

WHEREAS, 300 4-H members are in Olympia today as part of the annual "4-H Know Your Government" conference, focusing on the state election process; and

WHEREAS, This conference empowers 4-H members to engage in leadership, citizenship, and life skill development and application; and

WHEREAS, As we face many challenges during the 2012 Legislative Session, we must recognize effective organizations like 4-H and look to their successes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the Washington State Senate recognize the 4-H Youth Development Program for its many contributions to the State of Washington and to the betterment of our communities.

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution 8691, adopted by the Senate February 21, 2012

THOMAS HOEMANN Secretary of the Senate