

SENATE RESOLUTION

8710

By Senators Jayapal, Darneille, Litzow, King, Miloscia, Hargrove, Keiser, Liias, Conway, Chase, Hasegawa, Carlyle, McCoy, Ranker, Mullet, Fraser, Takko, Billig, Rolfes, Cleveland, Pedersen, Nelson, McAuliffe, Roach, and Frockt

1 WHEREAS, The collective story of the United States is of a nation
2 of refugees and immigrants seeking safety, opportunity, and a better
3 life free from oppression and tyranny; and

4 WHEREAS, Washington State's deep-rooted and bipartisan tradition
5 of opening its doors to welcome refugees began with Governor Dan
6 Evans when he heard the plight of Vietnamese refugees in need and
7 welcomed 500 into our state; and

8 WHEREAS, The tradition started by Governor Evans has led to
9 Washington State today assisting almost 3,000 refugees each year from
10 across the globe; and

11 WHEREAS, Refugees contribute in countless ways to the vibrancy of
12 Washington State's culture and success of our economy; and

13 WHEREAS, The refugees of today fleeing persecution, political
14 unrest, and oppression are no different and no less deserving of a
15 fresh start than our ancestors; and

16 WHEREAS, The Muslim children and families of today share our
17 country's strong family values, and want to succeed by working hard
18 and supporting their families; they are mothers and fathers, aunts
19 and uncles, brothers and sisters all with the hope of a better life;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Almost every refugee and immigrant group seeking entry
22 to the United States, from Irish to Italian, German to Jewish,

1 Chinese to Japanese initially experienced discrimination and
2 xenophobia; and

3 WHEREAS, In spite of overwhelming odds, our forebearers were
4 able to overcome the obstacles of fear and hatred to find common
5 humanity and embrace one another; and

6 WHEREAS, If Washington State is to continue to be a leader
7 in technology, aerospace, agriculture, and energy, we must
8 ensure our minds and our borders are open to new ideas, new
9 opportunities, and new collaboration with people of many faiths
10 and backgrounds; and

11 WHEREAS, As elected leaders we must look past the
12 differences of religion and race to see today's refugees as they
13 are: Families with ingenuity and determination in need of our
14 compassion;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
16 Senate reaffirm our commitment to ensuring Washington State is a
17 safe and secure home for refugees from across the globe—
18 recognizing that doing so upholds the values of the people of
19 the great state of Washington.

20 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
21 do hereby certify that this is a true and
22 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8710,
23 adopted by the Senate
24 February 11, 2016

25 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
26 Secretary of the Senate