

SENATE RESOLUTION

8737

By Senators Jayapal, Hasegawa, Chase, Miloscia, Fain, Litzow, Fraser, Nelson, and Conway

1 WHEREAS, Bill Hobson worked tirelessly for more than thirty years
2 to end homelessness and organize community resources to meet the
3 needs of chronically homeless men and women with mental illness,
4 substance use disorders, and other disabilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson was one of Washington's most knowledgeable
6 and eloquent advocates on issues relating to homelessness; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson worked with the Downtown Emergency Service
8 Center (DESC) in Seattle starting in 1984, and worked as DESC's
9 Executive Director starting in 1988, and under his stewardship DESC
10 evolved to better address their client's full range of needs,
11 including some of the most disabled and difficult-to-house
12 individuals in Seattle and King County; and

13 WHEREAS, DESC now serves more than 7,000 men and women each year,
14 providing not only housing, but also mental health outreach programs,
15 case management services, crisis respite, chemical dependency
16 treatment, crisis diversion, and employment services; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson worked to build innovative partnerships in
18 the community, including with police and the business community,
19 leading to DESC's selection by the United States Department of Health
20 and Human Services as a model for building partnerships to address
21 homelessness; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson received numerous awards and distinctions
23 recognizing his devotion to solving the problem of homelessness, and

1 his leadership led DESC to receive many awards and distinctions
2 as a leading provider of services relating to homelessness; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson was recognized as a national expert on
4 homelessness, and lended his time and experience to a number of
5 organizations that shaped Seattle's and King County's response
6 to homelessness; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson's over thirty years of bold and
8 ambitious leadership at DESC resulted in a truly unique
9 organization, which demonstrates that disabled, marginalized,
10 and chronically homeless people can stabilize and obtain, and
11 successfully maintain, housing, ultimately becoming more
12 independent and involved members of the community; and

13 WHEREAS, On March 4, 2016, Bill Hobson passed away at the
14 age of 76, leaving behind a legacy of untiring advocacy and
15 commitment;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
17 Senate honor the life, work, and contributions of Bill Hobson in
18 leading the Downtown Emergency Service Center, advocating for
19 marginalized populations, and working to end homelessness in
20 Seattle and King County; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
22 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the
23 family of Bill Hobson.

24 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
25 do hereby certify that this is a true and
26 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8737,
27 adopted by the Senate
28 March 8, 2016

29 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
30 Secretary of the Senate