HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2018-4672, by Representatives Bergquist, Clibborn, Senn, Santos, and Hudgins

WHEREAS, Dr. Gary Kohlwes was the superintendent for the Renton School District from 1974 to 1997 where his steadfast leadership and guidance was seen by many; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes empowered and encouraged countless teachers, students, and administrators that contributed to the strength and success of the Renton School District; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes attended Western Washington University for his bachelor's and master's degrees and ultimately obtained his doctorate in educational psychology from the University of Washington; and

WHEREAS, Many of his academic colleagues describe him as a supportive and honest person, who is tough-minded, multifaceted, and hard-working; and

WHEREAS, In his community, Dr. Kohlwes served as Director of First Financial Northwest Bank, a position he held for thirty-six years and later served as Chairman of the Board for four years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes was able to give back to his community as Executive Director and Trustee of the First Financial Northwest Foundation through various charitable causes, including a recent three million dollar donation to the Doug Baldwin Family First Community Center in Renton's Benson Hill/Cascade neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, Various Renton civic organizations have benefitted from the leadership of Dr. Kohlwes, including the Renton Rotary Club where he served as a past president and is still active; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes also took great pride as a college basketball coach and trainer at Western Washington University; and

WHEREAS, He was a high school teacher and as coach, led the Arlington High School football team through an undefeated season; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes has dedicated an immeasurable amount of personal time to his community and has shown his devotion through acts of service and valuable contributions; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Kohlwes and his wife, Elizabeth, have raised two boys and two girls, all graduates of Renton High School, during their marriage of over sixty years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State House of Representatives recognize Dr. Gary Kohlwes for his long dedication as a teacher, superintendent, and director in Washington state, and, above all, wish him the best health and happiness in his retirement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives to Dr. Gary Kohlwes.

I hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of

Resolution 4672 adopted by the House of Representatives

February 15, 2018

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Bernard Dean, Chief Clerk