

SENATE RESOLUTION

8614

By Senators Mullet, L. Wilson, Hasegawa, Lovelett, Rivers, and Saldaña

1 WHEREAS, It has been the tradition of the Washington State Senate
2 to honor significant and important contributions made by employees;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Keenan Konopaski retired as Washington's Legislative
5 Auditor on January 4, 2023, following a thirty-one year career in
6 public service, with eighteen of those years serving the Legislature
7 through his work at the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee
8 (JLARC); and

9 WHEREAS, While serving under the direction of eight different
10 JLARC chairs, Keenan consistently displayed a commitment to rigorous,
11 nonpartisan, objective analysis that has benefited the Legislature,
12 state agencies, and the people of Washington; and

13 WHEREAS, Keenan oversaw performance audits that together
14 addressed nearly every facet of state government, including
15 competency to stand trial, highway maintenance and preservation, K-12
16 health benefits, low-income housing, worker's compensation,
17 unemployment benefits, Medicaid, wildfire suppression, and more; and

18 WHEREAS, Keenan led JLARC and the Citizens Commission for the
19 Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences in developing one of the
20 nation's first state-level systematic reviews of tax preferences,
21 through which he oversaw two hundred and seventy-seven reviews of
22 preferences pertaining to agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing,
23 education, and more; and

1 WHEREAS, Keenan ensured that the Legislature had relevant
2 and timely information on demand by shifting reports from print
3 to online, adding interactive tools and different formats; and

4 WHEREAS, To improve visibility of reports and foster
5 implementation of recommendations, Keenan created a policy of
6 notifying committee chairs and ranking members of audit reports
7 on subjects within their committees' jurisdiction; and

8 WHEREAS, Keenan's insight and dedication to leading-edge
9 approaches brought national recognition for JLARC's work,
10 earning three awards for excellence in research methods, twelve
11 certificates of impact, and four notable document awards from
12 the National Conference of State Legislatures, as well as
13 invitations for JLARC staff members to share their work at
14 national conferences; and

15 WHEREAS, Keenan has improved the efficiency and
16 effectiveness of state government for all Washingtonians, as
17 agencies implemented over ninety percent of the one hundred
18 seventy-five recommendations issued to agencies under his
19 leadership as Legislative Auditor; and

20 WHEREAS, Keenan led the effort to incorporate racial-equity
21 analyses into all JLARC performance audits; and

22 WHEREAS, Keenan's commitment to professional development has
23 benefited the sixty-nine current and former JLARC staff and
24 interns that served under him, and instilled a dedication to
25 producing well-researched, easily understandable, and relevant
26 work for the Legislature; and

27 WHEREAS, Keenan's willingness to carry on the long-standing
28 office tradition of having a pink flamingo mascot has resulted
29 in numerous purchases of pink flamingo mugs, pens, stuffed
30 animals, statues, cake toppers, trivets, towels, and flashing
31 lights; and

32 WHEREAS, Keenan's retirement as Legislative Auditor does not
33 end his state service, as he will continue to serve the citizens
34 of Washington as an adjunct professor at The Evergreen State
35 College and help develop the next generation of public servants,
36 which hopefully will include future JLARC research analysts; and

1 WHEREAS, Keenan will be missed, but his retirement is well-
2 deserved and we wish him all the best and many camping trips and
3 travels with his family;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
5 Senate express its sincerest gratitude to Keenan Konopaski for a
6 long career serving the state of Washington; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
8 immediately transmitted to Keenan Konopaski.

9 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
10 do hereby certify that this is a true and
11 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8614,
12 adopted by the Senate
13 February 8, 2023

14 SARAH BANNISTER
15 Secretary of the Senate