

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8622

By Senators Mullet, Fain, Hobbs, Keiser, Hargrove, Ranker, McCoy, Hasegawa, Chase, Conway, Darneille, Jayapal, and Fraser

1           WHEREAS, The students of Tahoma High School enrolled in the *We*  
2 *the People: The Citizen and Constitution* program have exhibited  
3 superior knowledge of the Constitution of the United States and the  
4 lessons taught by our forefathers; and

5           WHEREAS, On Saturday, January 10, 2015, the state *We the People*  
6 competition was won by the team from Tahoma High School, marking the  
7 school's 18th state championship; and

8           WHEREAS, From April 24, 2015, to April 28, 2015, these students  
9 will represent their state at the 28th anniversary *We the People*  
10 National Finals in Washington, D.C., where they will aspire to uphold  
11 the standards of excellence for which Tahoma High School is known;  
12 and

13           WHEREAS, These students have immersed themselves in the United  
14 States Constitution and Bill of Rights, and their extraordinary  
15 understanding of the country's founding documents and principles and  
16 formidable debate skills have inspired those who have watched them  
17 progress to the level of state champions; and

18           WHEREAS, The Tahoma team is coached by Gretchen Wulfing, who was  
19 named Washington's Civic Educator of the Year in 2011 and who  
20 continues to ingrain in her students the importance of learning about  
21 American constitutional democracy and the contemporary relevance of  
22 the nation's founding documents and principles; and

23           WHEREAS, These students and their advisor were aided by *We the*  
24 *People* alumni, former students who helped prepare this year's  
25 debaters by volunteering countless hours as guest judges; and

26           WHEREAS, Since the creation of the *We the People* program in 1987,  
27 nearly 30 million students and 90,000 teachers from across the  
28 country have participated in enhancing civic education; and

29           WHEREAS, Studies have shown that 80 percent of high school  
30 seniors in the program are registered to vote, compared to an average  
31 of 37 percent among other high school seniors, proof that *We the*  
32 *People* instills greater interest in participating in government; and

33           WHEREAS, Tahoma High School has a distinguished record of  
34 excellence in competitions at the national level, placing fourth in

1 the nation in 2000; capturing the Western Regional Award in  
2 2001, 2008, and 2014; taking the top Unit Two in the Nation  
3 Award in 2003; placing in the top ten in 2012 and 2013; and  
4 earning the top Unit Five in the Nation Award in 2010 and 2011;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
6 Senate honor Abigail Atchison, Lauren Baek, Grace Barnes,  
7 Coleman Blakely, Cecelia Cadenhead, Christopher Darcy, Jacob  
8 Davies, Brock DenHerder, MacKenzie Dress, Amy Folkerts, Renée  
9 Hancock, Alex Harr, Desirae Hayes-Vitor, Zachary Jones, Joanne  
10 Kunze, Katrina May, Dominic Minniti, Sydney Murrey, Madeleine  
11 Musard, Caroline Pedro, Jayaram Ravi, Megan Simmons, Lucille  
12 Tibbetts, Nadiya Upegui, Samuel Verkruyse, and Sophie Wulfing as  
13 "Warriors of the Constitution"; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
15 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the  
16 members of Tahoma High School's *We the People* team, team advisor  
17 Gretchen Wulfing, and Tahoma High School principal Terry Duty to  
18 convey the respect of this body for a job well done and to wish  
19 them success in their continuing endeavors.

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 8622,  
23 adopted by the Senate  
24 February 26, 2015

25 HUNTER G. GOODMAN  
26 Secretary of the Senate