

SENATE RESOLUTION

8676

By Senators Chase, Fraser, and Kohl-Welles

1 WHEREAS, Benjamin D. Hall, Professor Emeritus of Genome Sciences
2 and Biology at the University of Washington, has served as a
3 university faculty member since 1963; and

4 WHEREAS, Professor Hall is a graduate from the University of
5 Kansas and received his doctorate in chemistry from Harvard; and

6 WHEREAS, During the 1970s, Professor Hall and colleagues at the
7 University of Washington studied yeast transcription, and in 1981
8 Professor Hall and Dr. Gustav Ammerer, an Austrian postdoctoral
9 fellow in Professor Hall's laboratory, developed a technique for
10 producing genetically engineered proteins in yeast. He and his co-
11 inventors then used this yeast invention to produce Hepatitis B virus
12 coat proteins in yeast cells; and

13 WHEREAS, These coat proteins formed the basis for the world's
14 first genetically engineered vaccine against a human disease, the
15 first vaccine against a sexually transmitted disease, and the first
16 vaccine against a virus that leads to human cancer; and

17 WHEREAS, Professor Hall's work is the foundation for a vaccine
18 for Hepatitis B, which is one of the world's most common blood-borne
19 viruses, chronically infecting some 400 million people worldwide and
20 one million people in the United States alone, of whom about twenty-
21 five percent will die from cirrhosis or cancer of the liver brought
22 on by the disease; and

1 WHEREAS, The vaccines made by Professor Hall's process are
2 now routinely given to newborn babies in many countries,
3 including the United States, Europe, and China, significantly
4 improving the health of more than one billion people worldwide,
5 and new infections in the United States have dropped from about
6 250,000 per year in the 1980s to approximately 20,000 per year
7 today; and

8 WHEREAS, These patented inventions for the expression of
9 proteins in yeast and a Hepatitis B vaccine have been licensed
10 to commercial manufacturers and have generated for the
11 Washington Research Foundation about 350 million dollars in
12 royalties, which are used by the Washington Research Foundation
13 and the University of Washington to fund additional research and
14 development; and

15 WHEREAS, Professor Hall has been diligent to ensure that the
16 University of Washington uses the royalties from the patents
17 according to its policies to support graduate students and
18 faculty research and has chosen to assist his grateful
19 University of Washington by creating a new graduate fellowship
20 for international students in the Department of Biology; and

21 WHEREAS, Professor Hall was recently elected as a fellow to
22 the prestigious National Academy of Sciences; and

23 WHEREAS, Professor Hall was chosen because of his
24 distinguished and continuing achievements in original research;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the
26 Washington State Senate congratulate Professor Benjamin Hall
27 upon his election as a fellow to the National Academy of
28 Sciences, express their deepest gratitude and appreciation for
29 his groundbreaking contributions to the field of yeast
30 technology and the invention of the Hepatitis B vaccine, and
31 wish him continued success in his endeavors and a joyous tenure
32 at the University of Washington.

33 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
34 do hereby certify that this is a true and
35 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8676,
36 adopted by the Senate

1 April 22, 2015

2 HUNTER G. GOODMAN

3 Secretary of the Senate