

SENATE RESOLUTION

8618

By Senator O'Ban

1 WHEREAS, The United States of America was founded on the
2 principles embodied in our Declaration of Independence: That all men
3 are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain
4 unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of
5 happiness; and

6 WHEREAS, The purpose of government, as defined by our
7 Declaration, is to secure these rights; and

8 WHEREAS, Black Americans were denied these rights by the practice
9 of slavery, starting in 1619 when the first African immigrants were
10 brought in captivity to Jamestown, Virginia; and

11 WHEREAS, In order to create a union of United States, compromises
12 were made by the colonies and slavery continued to deny black
13 Americans their individual rights and dignity, split families, and
14 debase the American values enshrined in the Declaration; and

15 WHEREAS, The abolitionist sentiments that were present at the
16 founding of the country multiplied under the influence of the
17 American spiritual revival of the 1820s known as the second great
18 awakening, leading to the creation of religious organizations
19 dedicated to changing culture and law in order to bring about
20 emancipation; and

21 WHEREAS, Despite violent threats and actions against them, these
22 abolitionist organizations continued exercising their religious

1 freedoms and rights of conscience; uniting freedmen, former
2 slaves, women, and white abolitionists in the anti-slavery
3 cause; and

4 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln was nominated by his new party as
5 their nominee for president in 1860; and

6 WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln, whose direct influence
7 on and connection to Washington state was noted in Senate
8 Resolution 8623 in February of 2009, refused to allow further
9 expansion of slavery or the dissolution of the union; and

10 WHEREAS, An eighth of our population was in bondage and that
11 bondage was concentrated in the southern part of the United
12 States, and fierce interests sought to strengthen, perpetuate,
13 and extend this interest [slavery] even at the cost of a civil
14 war; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1863, when confronted with rebellion, President
16 Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation as a wartime
17 measure to free slaves in rebel territory, and acted upon his
18 belief that a "government cannot endure, permanently half slave
19 and half free" by urging his party in 1864 to approve a platform
20 that read in part, "the principles of Republican Government,
21 justice and the National safety demand its [slavery's] utter and
22 complete extirpation from the soil of the Republic; and

23 WHEREAS, In order to ensure the sacrifices of the Union
24 would not be in vain, and that the nation would resolve the
25 issue of slavery once and for all in favor of emancipation,
26 President Lincoln worked tirelessly to ensure the passage of the
27 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which
28 abolished slavery forever in the United States;

29 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
30 Senate recognize the 152nd anniversary of the Congress of the
31 United States passing the 13th Amendment on January 31, 1865,
32 and celebrate this milestone on the path to the realization of
33 the principle expressed in the Declaration that "all men are
34 created equal."

35 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
36 do hereby certify that this is a true and
37 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8618,

1 adopted by the Senate
2 February 17, 2017

3 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
4 Secretary of the Senate