WHEREAS, The Democratic Republic of Congo has been embroiled in a
civil war since 1996 resulting in untold trauma and human rights
abuses; and
WHEREAS, International observers have concluded over 4,000,000
people have lost their lives between 1998 and now, and more than
2,000,000 Congolese people have been displaced from their homes; and
WHEREAS, Few have been able to escape the conflict, survivors
have experienced brutal violence, forced displacement, and economic
and social destruction; and
WHEREAS, Washington State has warmly received these immigrants
who number in the top 5 of resettled populations to our state and top
1 nationally; and
WHEREAS, An estimated 8,000 Congolese refugees live, work and
call Washington state home, they are served by the Congolese
Integration Network; and
WHEREAS, The Congolese Integration Network was founded 5 years
ago to facilitate the social, economic, cultural, and spiritual
integration of Congolese immigrants and refugees into American
society by providing access to critical resources to empower this
community; and
WHEREAS, The Congolese Integration Network continues to advocate
for resources to support the refugee community in the construction of
a Healing Center where those suffering from trauma can feel safe and recover from their mental, physical, and spiritual wounds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate recognize the work of the Congolese Integration Network, their efforts to support refugees in Washington fleeing violence and oppression, and individuals working to alleviate their plight, fighting for justice and peace.

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of Senate Resolution 8627, adopted by the Senate February 14, 2022

SARAH BANNISTER
Secretary of the Senate