

SENATE RESOLUTION

8637

By Senator Liiias

1 WHEREAS; Ahmad Hilal Abid, born in Kabul, Afghanistan, immigrated
2 to Lynnwood, Washington at age seventeen to join his family who'd
3 relocated earlier; and

4 WHEREAS; Abid began learning English at Edmonds College and
5 volunteering with local mosques and churches; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2020, Abid started teaching a class of 20 immigrant
7 and refugee students in the garage of his family's house, helping
8 them learn English and complete their classwork; and

9 WHEREAS, Abid named his class the House of Wisdom after a great
10 library built by Caliph Haround Al-Rasheed in 8th century Baghdad,
11 where people from many faiths and regions of the world studied and
12 shared knowledge with each other; and

13 WHEREAS, Abid has since expanded his class from his garage into a
14 larger rental space, recruiting volunteer staff to provide tutoring
15 in numerous subjects to students, as well as organizing recreational
16 activities and other community events; and

17 WHEREAS, Abid's House of Wisdom lives up to its namesake, serving
18 as a place where young people adapting to a new country, culture, and
19 language can find support and community; and

20 WHEREAS, Abid has earned an Associate of Arts degree at Edmonds
21 College and is now working toward a paralegal degree, while also
22 serving as a student leader on campus; and

1 WHEREAS, In a few short years, Abid has transformed from a new
2 immigrant in an unfamiliar country to a cornerstone of Lynnwood's
3 growing Afghan immigrant and refugee community;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
5 recognize Ahmad Hilal Abid for his service to Lynnwood's refugee and
6 immigrant community and to the community of Edmonds College, and for
7 his commitment to promoting his values of diversity, equality, and
8 fairness. His accomplishments embody his belief that, "if we put our
9 hands and minds together and accept our difference, we will be able
10 to restore the House of Wisdom and spread knowledge and love through
11 community and bring people together from different ethnicities and
12 faiths."; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
14 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Ahmad Hilal
15 Abid, the House of Wisdom, and to the President and Board of Trustees
16 of Edmonds College.

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