

SENATE RESOLUTION

8684

By Senator Fortunato

1 WHEREAS, There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions
2 considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the
3 United States, according to the National Institutes of Health; and

4 WHEREAS, While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of
5 people, rare diseases as a group affect 25,000,000-30,000,000
6 Americans and 750,000 Washingtonians; and

7 WHEREAS, Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating
8 conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those
9 affected; and

10 WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration has approved drugs and
11 biologics for more than 880 rare disease indications, but millions of
12 Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved
13 treatment; and

14 WHEREAS, Individuals and families affected by rare diseases often
15 experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a
16 medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary
17 services; and

18 WHEREAS, While the public is familiar with some rare diseases and
19 sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by
20 less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of
21 funding research and raising public awareness to support the search
22 for treatments; and

1 WHEREAS, Thousands of residents of Washington are among those
2 affected by rare diseases since nearly one in 10 Americans has a rare
3 disease; and

4 WHEREAS, The Orphan Drug Act has encouraged and promoted the
5 discovery and development of biopharmaceuticals designed to treat and
6 even cure rare diseases; and

7 WHEREAS, Many of the world-leading academic institutions,
8 academic medical centers, biotech companies, and pharmaceutical
9 companies conducting research and seeking cures for rare diseases are
10 doing so in Washington;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington state Senate
12 commend the endeavor of finding cures for rare diseases and encourage
13 all Washingtonians to recognize the struggle of those afflicted and
14 their families and commit to a future of hope through compassionate
15 care for our neighbors and scientific discovery.

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