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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8020

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State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Heavey, McAuliffe, Brown, Wojahn, Franklin, Fraser and Spanel

Read first time 01/20/98. Referred to Committee on Commerce & Labor.

1 TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CLINTON, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
2 STATES, AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE  
3 OF REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
4 THE UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The United States is a major importer of manufactured  
9 goods and is the largest importer of apparel items in the world; and

10 WHEREAS, Many of the imported items are manufactured by business  
11 entities whose corporate ownership is American, but are produced  
12 outside the political boundaries of the United States; and

13 WHEREAS, Business entities headquartered in the United States are  
14 able to exercise significant economic, social, and political influence  
15 in the nations in which they establish manufacturing facilities; and

16 WHEREAS, Business entities headquartered in the United States may  
17 be able to obtain significant economic advantages as a result of  
18 locating manufacturing facilities in nations where competition for  
19 employment is particularly high; and

20 WHEREAS, Many of the persons employed by business entities  
21 headquartered in the United States are minors;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that:

2 (1) The Congress of the United States establish a standard to which  
3 all business entities that employ minors in their manufacturing  
4 facilities in other nations must adhere;

5 (2) The standard require, at a minimum, that each minor employed by  
6 a company subject to the standard be provided a clear and realistic  
7 opportunity to complete a basic education in his or her native country,  
8 with the support of the employing company;

9 (3) Such opportunity be provided regardless of whether the minor  
10 remains employed by a company subject to the standard; and

11 (4) Companies subject to the standard be provided all necessary  
12 technical assistance by the federal government in providing educational  
13 opportunities.

14 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
15 transmitted to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the  
16 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker  
17 of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the  
18 State of Washington.

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