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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8401**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Kohl-Welles, Carlson, Johnson, Shin, Jacobsen, McAuliffe, Schmidt, Rasmussen and B. Sheldon

Read first time 01/16/2003. Referred to Committee on Higher Education.

1       WHEREAS, Education is the most important function of the state of  
2 Washington and is essential to the economic health, cultural diversity,  
3 civic vitality, and political well-being of the state and the nation;  
4 and

5       WHEREAS, There is significant evidence that citizens benefit by  
6 having an opportunity to access the education and training that will  
7 allow them to contribute to the healthy future of not only themselves  
8 and their families but also to the community at large; and

9       WHEREAS, The state will need to provide higher education  
10 opportunities for at least twenty-nine thousand more citizens by the  
11 year 2010 just to maintain current postsecondary participation rates;  
12 and

13       WHEREAS, Our schools, through education reform, are expected to  
14 prepare an evergrowing number of high school graduates for entry into  
15 postsecondary education; and

16       WHEREAS, A growing number of citizens affected by the fluctuations  
17 in the economic climate and shifts in employment opportunities enter  
18 and reenter the state's educational institutions to prepare them for  
19 participation in the rapidly changing workplace; and

1       WHEREAS, Washington's citizens would be better served through  
2 access to high quality education without institutional or  
3 organizational barriers to ensure being able to make smooth progress  
4 through all levels of education they desire; and

5       WHEREAS, Washington does not have a seamless education system nor  
6 does it have a system of coordinated education planning; and

7       WHEREAS, Collaboration and coordination among all sectors of  
8 education including but not limited to prekindergarten, the K-12  
9 system, the community and technical college system, and the four-year  
10 college and universities is essential to developing an educated  
11 citizenry;

12       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the State of  
13 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint  
14 select committee be appointed, composed of sixteen members as follows:  
15 Eight members of the Senate, four from each caucus to be appointed by  
16 the President of the Senate, and eight members of the House of  
17 Representatives, four from each caucus to be appointed by the Speaker  
18 of the House of Representatives; and

19       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That cochairs be designated from the  
20 majority party by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the  
21 President of the Senate, one cochair representing K-12 education and  
22 one cochair representing higher education; and

23       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee develop a  
24 "Master Plan for Education--Prekindergarten through University" to  
25 support the students' needs, focusing on the organization and  
26 management of delivery systems, to achieve the goal of eliminating  
27 barriers to a seamless education. In developing the plan, the joint  
28 select committee shall conduct forums around the state to gather  
29 comments from interested parties including educators, business and  
30 labor leaders, community leaders, parents, and students. An interim  
31 report shall be submitted to the appropriate legislative committees by  
32 December 1, 2003, and a final report by December 1, 2004; and

33       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the joint select committee shall  
34 terminate December 31, 2004.

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