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**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 8403**

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**State of Washington**

**60th Legislature**

**2007 Regular Session**

**By** Senator Jacobsen

Read first time . Referred to .

1       WHEREAS, The Latino population is the fastest growing ethnic group  
2 in Washington State; and

3       WHEREAS, The Latino population faces systemic, institutional, and  
4 social barriers in access to higher education evidenced by college  
5 enrollment rates; and

6       WHEREAS, The abolishment of affirmative action in Washington State  
7 has removed methods of dealing with barriers to higher education facing  
8 the Latino community; and

9       WHEREAS, Education is the most important function of the state of  
10 Washington and is essential to the economic health, cultural diversity,  
11 civic vitality, and political well-being of the state and the nation;  
12 and

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

17       WHEREAS, Latino educational achievement is an increasingly  
18 important benchmark for assessing the contributions of institutions of  
19 higher education to the economic and civic health of Washington State;

1           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the Senate of the state of  
2 Washington, the House of Representatives concurring, That a joint  
3 select committee on Latino accessibility to higher education be  
4 established, in consultation with the Washington State commission on  
5 Hispanic affairs to:

6           (1) Increase awareness throughout the educational pipeline about  
7 the challenges facing the Latino community, to close the generational  
8 information gap within the Latino community;

9           (2) Close the generational information gap within the Latino  
10 community about the cost of and accessibility to higher education;

11           (3) Investigate ways to provide an appropriate level of financial  
12 aid to help Latinos enroll in and graduate from Washington State  
13 institutions of higher education;

14           (4) Improve articulation and communication between two-year and  
15 four-year institutions of higher education regarding higher education  
16 issues especially important to the Latino community; and

17           (5) Develop and propose strategies for helping Latino students  
18 achieve at high academic levels;

19           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee consist of eight  
20 members, four members each selected by the President of the Senate and  
21 the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

22           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the committee report its findings and  
23 recommendations to the legislature at the regular legislative session  
24 in 2009.

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