

SENATE RESOLUTION
8614

By Senators Keiser, Berkey, Parlette, Kauffman, Fairley, Carrell, Franklin, Kohl-Welles and Pflug

WHEREAS, People with all kinds of disabilities have the right to live and work in communities with equal rights as equal citizens; and

WHEREAS, Living in a home in the community of your choice, free from isolation and segregation, is one key to achieving the American dream; and

WHEREAS, Those with disabilities are no longer willing to accept a fate that separates or excludes them; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 832,000 people in Washington state have a disability requiring personal assistance services by family members, providers, and community organizations; and

WHEREAS, There are seven independent living centers in Washington state working with individuals with disabilities on obtaining access to housing, employment, transportation, recreational facilities, and health and social services; and

WHEREAS, People live happier, more fulfilled lives when they are able to actively contribute to society by working, volunteering, and participating in community events; and

WHEREAS, With the assistance of the 31,687 home and personal care workers in Washington state working to reduce unnecessary institutionalization and promote integration into community life, independent living is no longer an unattainable dream; and

WHEREAS, Living independently gives people the option to manage their own services, increasing control over their own decisions and lives; and

WHEREAS, Independent living empowers individuals with disabilities by creating opportunities, promoting choice, advancing access, and furthering participation in community life;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate honor and support the independence and rights of all individuals with disabilities on March 7, 2007, Independent Living Day.