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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8015

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State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe and Keiser

Read first time 03/06/09. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 TO THE HONORABLE BARACK OBAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND  
2 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE SECRETARY OF  
5 EDUCATION, ARNE DUNCAN:

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

9 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has captured the imagination of the  
10 nation's citizens; and

11 WHEREAS, Presidents such as Abraham Lincoln have changed the course  
12 of society with proclamations of new societal norms and courses of  
13 action; and

14 WHEREAS, Presidents such as John F. Kennedy have emboldened entire  
15 generations to pursue new courses of action in history such as putting  
16 a man on the moon, which powerfully focused the nation on education,  
17 science, innovation, and progress; and

18 WHEREAS, President Barack Obama possesses the ability to mobilize  
19 a new movement to reinvent and elevate society's view of teaching as a  
20 valued service to the country and humankind; and

1       WHEREAS, Teachers should be viewed as providers of knowledge,  
2 values, and civic action; and

3       WHEREAS, Teachers are role models to our students and should  
4 reflect the cultural diversity of our nation; and

5       WHEREAS, Our college students should be encouraged to aspire to  
6 become teachers and to view teaching as a viable and exciting career  
7 choice that will enable them to mentor students to be lifelong  
8 learners; and

9       WHEREAS, Teachers who have a passion for and a commitment to  
10 teaching make an enormous impact on the lives of students and are  
11 improving their community by galvanizing student efforts to discover  
12 their own strengths and talents and assisting students to become our  
13 future leaders; and

14       WHEREAS, The evolution of the role of teachers from instructors to  
15 mentors and community leaders will raise the prestige of teaching and,  
16 consequently, the quality and number of candidates drawn to the  
17 teaching profession; and

18       WHEREAS, In times of economic peril we have an opportunity to focus  
19 on teachers and students who are the building blocks of our future and  
20 if the status and respect for our teachers can be increased it would  
21 enable a change in our culture that would lead to an improvement in our  
22 economic, educational, and societal future;

23       NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
24 Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States, and the  
25 Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, commence proceedings to engage the  
26 nation with an awakening dialogue of the critical role teachers play in  
27 our economic future; may this awaken fervor, increase awareness, and  
28 motivate our most talented citizens to become teachers and be part of  
29 a new culture in teaching reform; may this new culture strive towards  
30 service and community engagement in order to increase the prestige and  
31 effectiveness of our education system; and may it create a strong and  
32 informed discourse on what our education system is, and needs to be.

33       BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
34 transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United  
35 States, the Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, the President of the  
36 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and

1 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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