

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8630

By Senators Stevens, Litzow, Baxter, Baumgartner, Becker, Regala, Delvin, Benton, Zarelli, Carrell, McAuliffe, Roach, Hargrove, King, Swecker, Hewitt, Holmquist Newbry, Hill, Ericksen, Honeyford, Morton, and Hobbs

WHEREAS, The state of Washington acknowledges the paramount significance and fundamental right of parents to proactively direct the education of their children; and

WHEREAS, The state of Washington appropriately recognizes, by law, the right to home education as a legitimate and viable alternative to other forms of education; and

WHEREAS, Homeschooling has grown from a handful of students in 1973 to more than two million students today in grades K-12; and

WHEREAS, Five to ten percent of all school children have learning disabilities. The number of children with learning disabilities being taught at home could be as high as 50,000 nationally, not including children who may have severe special needs, such as those with cerebral palsy, Down Syndrome, or medical reasons for not being placed in a school setting; and

WHEREAS, Children educated in the home receive sound academic instruction, this instruction is bolstered by the at-home educational process; and

WHEREAS, The state of Washington is committed to excellence in scholarship and exemplary student achievement; and

WHEREAS, Studies affirm that children educated at home excel with distinction on nationally calibrated achievement tests, demonstrate healthy self-awareness and civic virtue, while being fully prepared to thrive in and contribute to society at large; and

WHEREAS, This exceptional academic achievement among homeschoolers is consistent regardless of family income; and

WHEREAS, In addition to outstanding academics, homeschool students participate in a variety of outside activities and opportunities for socialization including music and dance classes, volunteer work, church activities, field trips, group sports, dances, parties, and more; and

WHEREAS, The instruction of children in the home was the preeminent means of education for much of America's early years; and

WHEREAS, The United States has produced many prominent and noteworthy home-schooled students including George and Martha Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Abigail Adams, John Quincy Adams, Thomas Edison, Helen Keller, Susan B. Anthony, Franklin Roosevelt, Patrick Henry, Abraham Lincoln, Booker T. Washington, and Woodrow Wilson; and

WHEREAS, Many parents of home-schooled students accept an additional financial responsibility to provide for their children's education, while also paying taxes that support Washington's public school system; and

WHEREAS, Some parent educators devote innumerable hours to assist children in their pursuit and acquisition of academic excellence, profound patriotism, and civic responsibility in order to become productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that Washington's home education families be recognized for their sacrificial contribution to the quality of education in this great state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the state of Washington hereby honor, thank, and celebrate the home education families in the state.

I, Thomas Hoemann, Secretary of the Senate,  
do hereby certify that this is a true and  
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8630,  
adopted by the Senate  
March 15, 2011

THOMAS HOEMANN  
Secretary of the Senate