

SENATE RESOLUTION
8618

By Senators Frockt, Kohl-Welles, Pedersen, Hobbs, Hatfield, Nelson, Mullet, Keiser, McCoy, Darneille, McAuliffe, Lias, Jayapal, Hasegawa, Cleveland, Chase, Billig, Conway, Rolfes, Fraser, and Fain

1 WHEREAS, Closing the opportunity gap and ensuring that every
2 Washington child has a chance to succeed is the utmost duty of the
3 Washington State Legislature; and

4 WHEREAS, A disproportionate number of students from communities
5 of color, disadvantaged backgrounds, and rural or poor areas face
6 major challenges with accessing higher education; and

7 WHEREAS, Higher education is increasingly necessary for students
8 to get jobs in our new knowledge-intensive economy, and local
9 employers are forced to recruit outside Washington to find employees
10 with the appropriate skills; and

11 WHEREAS, Washington ranks 47th in the nation for student
12 enrollment in college by age 19, and 42nd in college participation
13 rates for students from low-income families; and

14 WHEREAS, The College Bound Scholarship program helps low-income
15 middle school students aspire to postsecondary education and succeed
16 academically by providing financial aid for college if they maintain
17 their grades through high school; and

18 WHEREAS, Since the College Bound Scholarship was established in
19 2007, more than 212,000 students have signed up, and the scholarship
20 has substantially contributed to increased high school graduation
21 rates among participants by 15 to 19 percent statewide and by 30
22 percent in some regions; and

23 WHEREAS, The State Need Grant is Washington's major college
24 financial aid program for low-income students; and

25 WHEREAS, Demand for the State Need Grant is far outpacing
26 available resources—over 33,000 students eligible for the program
27 were not able to access the aid in 2013-2014;

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
29 honor students who have the College Bound Scholarship and students
30 receiving State Need Grant aid as they continue to work hard and put
31 themselves on the path to success in school and life; and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
33 acknowledge that Washington must continue to support college access

1 for low-income students in order to close opportunity gaps and
2 increase our state's long-term competitiveness.

3 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
4 do hereby certify that this is a true and
5 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8618,
6 adopted by the Senate
7 February 17, 2015

8 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
9 Secretary of the Senate