

SENATE RESOLUTION

8710

By Senators Jayapal, Darneille, Litzow, King, Miloscia, Hargrove, Keiser, Liias, Conway, Chase, Hasegawa, Carlyle, McCoy, Ranker, and Mullet

1 WHEREAS, The collective story of the United States is of a nation
2 of refugees and immigrants seeking safety, opportunity, and a better
3 life free from oppression and tyranny; and

4 WHEREAS, Washington State's deep-rooted and bipartisan tradition
5 of opening its doors to welcome refugees began with Governor Dan
6 Evans when he heard the plight of Vietnamese refugees in need and
7 welcomed 500 into our state; and

8 WHEREAS, The tradition started by Governor Evans has led to
9 Washington State today assisting almost 3,000 refugees each year from
10 across the globe; and

11 WHEREAS, Refugees contribute in countless ways to the vibrancy of
12 Washington State's culture and success of our economy; and

13 WHEREAS, The refugees of today fleeing persecution, political
14 unrest, and oppression are no different and no less deserving of a
15 fresh start than our ancestors; and

16 WHEREAS, The Muslim children and families of today share our
17 country's strong family values, and want to succeed by working hard
18 and supporting their families; they are mothers and fathers, aunts
19 and uncles, brothers and sisters all with the hope of a better life;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Almost every refugee and immigrant group seeking entry
22 to the United States, from Irish to Italian, German to Jewish,

1 Chinese to Japanese initially experienced discrimination and
2 xenophobia; and

3 WHEREAS, In spite of overwhelming odds, our forebearers were able
4 to overcome the obstacles of fear and hatred to find common humanity
5 and embrace one another; and

6 WHEREAS, If Washington State is to continue to be a leader in
7 technology, aerospace, agriculture, and energy, we must ensure our
8 minds and our borders are open to new ideas, new opportunities, and
9 new collaboration with people of many faiths and backgrounds; and

10 WHEREAS, As elected leaders we must look past the differences of
11 religion and race to see today's refugees as they are: Families with
12 ingenuity and determination in need of our compassion;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
14 reaffirm our commitment to ensuring Washington State is a safe and
15 secure home for refugees from across the globe—recognizing that doing
16 so upholds the values of the people of the great state of Washington.

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