

SENATE RESOLUTION

8720

By Senators Dansel, Litzow, Ericksen, Sheldon, Carlyle, Hasegawa, Hobbs, Chase, Takko, Billig, Conway, Fraser, Dammeier, Honeyford, Jayapal, and Pedersen

1 WHEREAS, A teacher in a small rural school district is often
2 presented with unique challenges, expectations, and opportunities of
3 the type not typically experienced in urban districts; and

4 WHEREAS, Catherine Diane Wilson has spent her entire 37-year
5 career as a teacher in rural districts, with the first 7 years at
6 J.L. Crowe Secondary School in Trail, British Columbia, followed by
7 30 consecutive years in the neighboring Northport School District in
8 Stevens County; and

9 WHEREAS, Through the course of her career, Ms. Wilson has posted
10 some varied and remarkable achievements, including starting the first
11 boys' volleyball team at Northport High, and organizing and leading a
12 month long trip to Europe in 1997 for 11 students--after first having
13 to raise \$14,000 through a community wide effort to cover travel
14 expenses; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson was the force behind the North Port Pioneer,
16 the first and only student-generated newspaper at Northport High,
17 which she managed and nurtured for 15 years; and

18 WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson invigorated the drama/theater and performing
19 arts program during a time when other arts programs in the district
20 were getting cut, and for many years was one of the instigators of
21 the famous teacher Christmas skits; and

1 WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson once caused a very surprised truck
2 driver to swerve and hit a guardrail after he saw her riding
3 down the street on her bicycle wearing a Teletubby costume for
4 school spirit week; and

5 WHEREAS, With the assistance of a retired local newspaper
6 editor, Ms. Wilson produced a video that showed antiquated
7 school supplies and infrastructure at Northport, featuring
8 textbooks with lice in the seams, moldy walls and carpeting,
9 asbestos-coated ceilings, and a female school bus driver
10 chaining up in the mud; and

11 WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson then shared the video with the late
12 Senator Bob Morton to show to the Legislature as a way of
13 seeking funding for rural schools that would be less reliant on
14 matching levies; and

15 WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson has spent her career teaching in a
16 number of disciplines, including French, English, and filling in
17 wherever needed while promoting health, fitness, and the
18 expanded use of technology; and

19 WHEREAS, Ms. Wilson is retiring this June after a long and
20 enjoyable career that made a huge difference in the lives of
21 many Northport students;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
23 Senate honor the career of Catherine Diane Wilson as a living
24 example of the kind of devotion, commitment, and dedication that
25 all teachers in rural districts in Washington face through the
26 course of their careers; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
28 transmitted to the Superintendent of the Northport School
29 District in the honor of Ms. Wilson's distinguished teaching
30 career.

31 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
32 do hereby certify that this is a true and
33 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8720,
34 adopted by the Senate
35 February 26, 2016

- 1 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
- 2 Secretary of the Senate