

SENATE RESOLUTION

8737

By Senators Jayapal, Hasegawa, Chase, Miloscia, Fain, and Litzow

1 WHEREAS, Bill Hobson worked tirelessly for more than thirty years
2 to end homelessness and organize community resources to meet the
3 needs of chronically homeless men and women with mental illness,
4 substance use disorders, and other disabilities; and

5 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson was one of Washington's most knowledgeable
6 and eloquent advocates on issues relating to homelessness; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson worked with the Downtown Emergency Service
8 Center (DESC) in Seattle starting in 1984, and worked as DESC's
9 Executive Director starting in 1988, and under his stewardship DESC
10 evolved to better address their client's full range of needs,
11 including some of the most disabled and difficult-to-house
12 individuals in Seattle and King County; and

13 WHEREAS, DESC now serves more than 7,000 men and women each year,
14 providing not only housing, but also mental health outreach programs,
15 case management services, crisis respite, chemical dependency
16 treatment, crisis diversion, and employment services; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson worked to build innovative partnerships in
18 the community, including with police and the business community,
19 leading to DESC's selection by the United States Department of Health
20 and Human Services as a model for building partnerships to address
21 homelessness; and

22 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson received numerous awards and distinctions
23 recognizing his devotion to solving the problem of homelessness, and

1 his leadership led DESC to receive many awards and distinctions as a
2 leading provider of services relating to homelessness; and

3 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson was recognized as a national expert on
4 homelessness, and lended his time and experience to a number of
5 organizations that shaped Seattle's and King County's response to
6 homelessness; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Hobson's over thirty years of bold and ambitious
8 leadership at DESC resulted in a truly unique organization, which
9 demonstrates that disabled, marginalized, and chronically homeless
10 people can stabilize and obtain, and successfully maintain, housing,
11 ultimately becoming more independent and involved members of the
12 community; and

13 WHEREAS, On March 4, 2016, Bill Hobson passed away at the age of
14 76, leaving behind a legacy of untiring advocacy and commitment;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
16 honor the life, work, and contributions of Bill Hobson in leading the
17 Downtown Emergency Service Center, advocating for marginalized
18 populations, and working to end homelessness in Seattle and King
19 County; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
21 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the family
22 of Bill Hobson.

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