

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2017-4605, by Representative Peterson

1 WHEREAS, Agriculture is a vital industry in Washington state,
2 accounting for 13 percent of the economy; and

3 WHEREAS, Washington state is home to more than 37,000 farms, of
4 which over 80 percent are individual and family owned; and

5 WHEREAS, Washington state's agriculture industry employs over
6 160,000 people; and

7 WHEREAS, All children deserve access to nutritious, high-quality
8 food; and

9 WHEREAS, Children need to eat a variety of fruits and vegetables
10 every day to get essential vitamins and minerals; and

11 WHEREAS, In Washington state, 1 in 5 children lives in a
12 household that struggles with hunger and 14 percent of families are
13 food insecure, without reliable access to affordable, nutritious
14 food; and

15 WHEREAS, Washington students' ability and readiness to learn is a
16 critical factor in acquiring the knowledge and skills to be
17 successful in the workforce; and

18 WHEREAS, Washington state's future economic welfare rests with
19 the students of today; and

20 WHEREAS, Community connections between schools and farmers would
21 provide nutritious, locally grown food for children and economic
22 opportunities for Washington farmers;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
2 recognize the importance of combating childhood hunger; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
4 acknowledge the economic and educational benefits of connecting
5 schools and local farmers; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives commend
7 advocacy groups and local farm to community coalitions across the
8 state for their efforts to end hunger in Washington.

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