

SENATE RESOLUTION

8696

By Senators O'Ban, Zeiger, Angel, Darneille, Conway, Hunt, and Becker

1 WHEREAS, Amtrak train No. 501 derailed near DuPont in southern
2 Pierce County at 7:33 a.m. on December 18, 2017, during its inaugural
3 trip on the new stretch of track known as the Point Defiance bypass,
4 with seventy-seven passengers and five crewmembers onboard; and

5 WHEREAS, Sixty-two passengers and crewmembers were injured and
6 three passengers lost their lives; and

7 WHEREAS, Second Lieutenant Robert McCoy, an Army medic, was
8 driving on Interstate 5 just as the train derailed and without
9 thought to his welfare, immediately jumped out of his truck and began
10 carrying the wounded out of harm's way and off the road to safety,
11 and then climbed into a suspended train car to help those trapped
12 inside; and

13 WHEREAS, Daniel Konzelman and Alicia Hoverson were also driving
14 along Interstate 5 and came upon the scene just after the derailment
15 and quickly helped extricate passengers from the damaged train and
16 were a calming presence to the injured; and

17 WHEREAS, DuPont Mayor Mike Courts and his team were
18 coincidentally at City Hall that morning to begin a scheduled
19 emergency training, and they began coordination of the emergency
20 response, opening up City Hall for emergency workers, taking in those
21 affected, providing food, water, and triage services; and

22 WHEREAS, Many other pedestrians, police officers, firefighters,
23 nurses, and doctors jumped into action to help those in need; and

1 WHEREAS, Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier and the Pierce
2 County Incident Management Team, led by Captain Jerry Lawrence from
3 the Pierce County Sheriff's Department and Captain Scott Engle of the
4 Puyallup Police Department, spearheaded a multiagency response; and

5 WHEREAS, The responding agencies included: West Pierce Fire;
6 Joint Base Lewis-McChord; the City of DuPont; the Pierce County
7 Medical Examiner; the Office of the Governor; the Washington State
8 Department of Transportation; the Washington State Patrol; the
9 Federal Bureau of Investigation; the National Transportation Safety
10 Board; Amtrak; and the American Red Cross; and

11 WHEREAS, These agencies showed exemplary coordination in helping
12 the injured and addressing the myriad of issues resulting from a
13 catastrophe of this magnitude, with remarkable effectiveness and
14 sensitivity to the injured and their families; and

15 WHEREAS, These agencies worked collaboratively and professionally
16 to remove damaged vehicles and equipment, assess damages, and perform
17 necessary repairs that allowed the opening of Interstate 5, an
18 essential and critical Washington state highway, within fifty-seven
19 hours; and

20 WHEREAS, Madigan Army Medical Center at Joint Base Lewis-McChord;
21 Providence St. Peter Hospital and Capital Medical Center in Olympia;
22 Harborview Medical Center, Virginia Mason Medical Center, and
23 Children's Hospital in Seattle; St. Joseph Medical Center, Tacoma
24 General, and Allenmore Hospital in Tacoma; Good Samaritan Hospital in
25 Puyallup; and, St. Francis Hospital in Federal Way all treated
26 victims of the train crash; and

27 WHEREAS, Joint Base Lewis-McChord made available its Eagles Pride
28 Golf Course as the command center for coordination among all
29 responding agencies and opened its restricted roadways for use by the
30 general public to accommodate traffic from the impassable southbound
31 lanes of Interstate 5;

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
33 hereby honors all those who acted promptly, efficiently, and
34 effectively in a time of extraordinary confusion and emotional stress
35 to aid the injured and their families and console those who lost
36 loved ones; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be
2 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to those
3 mentioned in this resolution.

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