

SENATE RESOLUTION

8651

By Senators Keiser, Hasegawa, Salomon, Wellman, Kuderer, Das, Wilson, C., Conway, Darneille, Hobbs, Lovelett, Frockt, Takko, Lias, Randall, Palumbo, Wagoner, Hunt, Pedersen, and McCoy

1 WHEREAS, A powerful voice in the fight for the rights of  
2 immigrants and working people everywhere has left us; and

3 WHEREAS, Margarita López Prentice, the former senator and first  
4 Latina elected to the state legislature, passed away on April 2nd at  
5 her home at the age of 88; and

6 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice championed many causes during her long  
7 tenure in the legislature including health care, LGBTQ rights,  
8 farmworker housing, veterans, basic education, and affordable  
9 housing; and

10 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice's career in public service began in  
11 1986 when she was elected to the Renton School Board. In 1988 she was  
12 appointed to fill a vacancy in the House of Representatives and  
13 served two terms before winning election to the Senate in 1992. She  
14 also served as board member for Renton Area Youth Services, secretary  
15 to the National Democratic Hispanic Caucus, and was a member of the  
16 Democratic National Committee; and

17 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice served five terms in the Senate,  
18 serving as vice chair of the Labor and Commerce Committee, chair of  
19 the Financial Institutions & Housing Committee, chair of the Ways and  
20 Means Committee, and President Pro Tempore, before retiring in 2013;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice received numerous awards during her  
23 distinguished career highlighting her ability to bring together

1 diverse people, ideas, and solutions to help those in need. She  
2 was named Legislator of the Year by the Washington Health Care  
3 Association, the Washington State Labor Council, the Washington  
4 Education Association, the Pediatric Interim Care Center, the  
5 Washington State Patrol, Valley Medical Center, the Washington  
6 State Association for Justice, the Northwest Credit Union  
7 League, as well as many others; and

8 WHEREAS, During the course of her 20 years in the Senate,  
9 Senator Prentice established herself as a matriarch of the  
10 chamber, mentoring new legislators and forging friendships on  
11 both sides of the aisle; and

12 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice was a no nonsense legislator,  
13 tough on issues and people, when necessary, to ensure the rights  
14 of all Washingtonians were always put first. She had a wicked  
15 sense of humor, a tactic often used when navigating hard  
16 conversations, bringing stakeholders together to pass important  
17 pieces of legislation; and

18 WHEREAS, She took great pride in representing her  
19 constituents and her community, championing issues that required  
20 leadership and determination to reach the legislative finish  
21 line; and

22 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice saw people, not party affiliation,  
23 background or title, which guided her successful legislative  
24 career. She firmly believed in the importance of every citizen  
25 having a voice and being part of the solution; and

26 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice began her professional life caring  
27 for people as a nurse, ultimately serving with the Washington  
28 State Nurses Association, as a labor organizer, officer, and  
29 later vice president during her 30-year career; and

30 WHEREAS, Margarita Prentice was born February 22, 1931, in  
31 San Bernardino, California, the youngest of five children; and

32 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice lived in Skyway, where she raised  
33 her four children with her husband, William Prentice Jr.; and

34 WHEREAS, Senator Prentice is survived by her three children,  
35 five grandchildren, and her brother Carlos López. Her husband  
36 and her son Carl preceded her in death;

37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate honor  
38 Margarita Prentice for her lifetime of service to the people of

1 Washington state and to the people of the 11th Legislative  
2 District, and offer our heartfelt condolences to her family and  
3 friends in their time of sorrow; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That while we mourn her loss, we  
5 stand in awe of a life well lived and dedicated to the well-  
6 being of others. Senator Prentice worked hard and fought even  
7 harder for what she believed was right. Her example lives on in  
8 her friends who still serve in this body today. We celebrate her  
9 accomplishments, her leadership and acknowledge the many lessons  
10 she leaves behind.

11 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
12 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
13 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8651,  
14 adopted by the Senate  
15 April 19, 2019

16 BRAD HENDRICKSON  
17 Secretary of the Senate