

SENATE RESOLUTION

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By Senators Dhingra, Das, Takko, Lovelett, Billig, Hasegawa, Wilson, C., Hunt, Holy, Padden, and Stanford

1 WHEREAS, January 26, 2020, marked the 71st Republic Day in India,
2 celebrating the adoption of the Constitution of the world's largest
3 democracy; and

4 WHEREAS, India achieved independence from British rule through
5 peaceful and nonviolent resistance; and

6 WHEREAS, India's Constitution asserts equality before law, and
7 declares, "that the State shall not deny to any person equality
8 before the law or the equal protection of the laws within the
9 territory of India"; and

10 WHEREAS, India has a strong tradition of maintaining democratic
11 ideals through robust checks on those in power; and

12 WHEREAS, The first prime minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru,
13 wrote to caution himself and his own supporters, "We want no
14 Caesars"; and

15 WHEREAS, Washington state has many cultural and economic ties to
16 India, including more than 60,000 Indian Americans living in the
17 state; and

18 WHEREAS, Indian Americans are small business owners,
19 entrepreneurs, and CEOs of Washington companies, including the
20 founding officers of many Seattle-based tech companies; and

21 WHEREAS, These businesses provide valuable services, resources,
22 and jobs to the people of this state; and

1 WHEREAS, Indian Americans have been emigrating to the West Coast
2 since the 19th century, working in our most vital industries
3 including agriculture, logging, and trade; and

4 WHEREAS, Indian Americans reflect the values of inclusion and
5 pluralism through their many cultural and religious identities,
6 including Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu; and

7 WHEREAS, Indian Americans serve selflessly in our armed forces
8 and in law enforcement, and contribute profoundly to the health care
9 industry and Washington's institutions of higher education;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
11 honor Republic Day 2020 as a symbol of the shared values of
12 democracy, diversity, and inclusion, between the nation of India and
13 both the State of Washington and the United States of America.

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