

SENATE RESOLUTION

8694

By Senators Llias, Randall, Wilson, C., Salomon, Cleveland, Stanford, Saldaña, Dhingra, Conway, Pedersen, Takko, Das, Mullet, Frockt, Keiser, Van De Wege, Lovelett, Darneille, Hobbs, Nguyen, Kuderer, Hasegawa, McCoy, Billig, Sheldon, Hunt, Wellman, and Wagoner

1 WHEREAS, 2019 saw a large rise in violence targeting transgender  
2 people, especially transgender women of color, across this country;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, While each case differs, it is clear that this violence  
5 has been founded on transphobia and specifically targeted towards  
6 transgender people because of their identity; and

7 WHEREAS, Dana Martin (31, she/her), Ashanti Carmon (27, she/her),  
8 Claire Legato (23, she/her), Muhlaysia Booker (23, she/her), Paris  
9 Cameron (20, she/her), Chynal Lindsey (26, she/her), Chanel Scurlock  
10 (23, she/her), Zoe Spears (23, she/her), Brooklyn Lindsey (32, she/  
11 her), Tracy Single (22, she/her), Kiki Fantroy (21, she/her), and  
12 many more transgender women were killed in 2019; and

13 WHEREAS, Nikki Kuhnhausen, a proud seventeen-year old trans woman  
14 from Vancouver, Washington, lived a life filled with empathy and love  
15 for others; and

16 WHEREAS, Nikki was, according to her mother, a "rainbow of light"  
17 who loved her friends and family unconditionally with all her heart  
18 and always made everyone smile even when they were feeling down; and

19 WHEREAS, Nikki radiated pure love and energy, approaching  
20 everyone and everything with a positive mindset to promote a world  
21 without barriers and to ensure the betterment of those around her;  
22 and

1           WHEREAS, Nikki had many aspirations in life, such as to win  
2 America's Next Top Model, and to be a hair and make-up artist;  
3 and

4           WHEREAS, Nikki was always confident in who she was even from  
5 a young age and taught others to be themselves, to be proud of  
6 who they are, and not hide because of what others think; and

7           WHEREAS, Even when Nikki was in preschool, she was always  
8 the most cheerful in the room, especially when she was able to  
9 wear beaded heels, and knew from a very young age how to be  
10 herself; and

11           WHEREAS, Nikki's compassion even spread to strangers she  
12 encountered on the street: Giving them her jacket when they  
13 needed one, bringing food and water, washing their clothes, and  
14 welcoming them into her home; and

15           WHEREAS, Nikki, through her genuine care for the community,  
16 worked hard to make sure others never went without the things  
17 they needed in life and would never think twice or ask for  
18 anything in return; and

19           WHEREAS, Nikki had a history of helping others struggling  
20 with their gender identity, even one time spending over five  
21 hours talking to a young girl who was struggling with her own  
22 gender identity; and

23           WHEREAS, Nikki was not only admired for her great  
24 compassion, but also her great strength and bravery, especially  
25 in the face of extreme adversity such as when she was the victim  
26 of a hateful targeted assault in 2018, in which she survived six  
27 gunshot wounds; and

28           WHEREAS, In June of 2019, Nikki's life was suddenly taken  
29 when she was brutally murdered in a violent incident believed to  
30 be linked to the disclosure of her gender identity;

31           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
32 Senate mourn the loss of Nikki Kuhnhausen, remember her for the  
33 many lives she touched, and condemn the disgusting and hateful  
34 actions that took her life; and

35           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
36 condemn the continuing acts of violence against the transgender  
37 community, especially transgender women of color, throughout the  
38 United States and call upon all Washingtonians to join in

1 rejecting these hateful actions that are contrary to our state's  
2 core values of respect, nondiscrimination, and nonviolence; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
4 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the  
5 family members and friends of Nikki Kuhnhausen.

6 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,  
7 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
8 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8694,  
9 adopted by the Senate  
10 March 5, 2020

11 BRAD HENDRICKSON  
12 Secretary of the Senate