

SENATE RESOLUTION

8695

By Senators Pedersen, Takko, Mullet, Frockt, Hunt, Das, Keiser, Salomon, Stanford, Van De Wege, Cleveland, Hasegawa, Brown, Walsh, Schoesler, Liias, and Fortunato

1 WHEREAS, In January of 1919, the Republic of Poland and the
2 United States established diplomatic relations with the hope of the
3 betterment of political, economic, religious, and human rights for
4 both countries; and

5 WHEREAS, The first Polish ambassador to the United States, Prince
6 Kazimierz Lubomirski, presented his credentials to President Woodrow
7 Wilson on May 15, 1920; and

8 WHEREAS, Over the decades, the strength of Polish-American
9 relations varied, enduring the Cold War; and

10 WHEREAS, Upon the fall of communism, Poland regained full
11 sovereignty and joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
12 and the European Union (EU); and

13 WHEREAS, Poland's decision to align itself with the western
14 democracy further strengthened the Polish-American diplomatic
15 relations, opening a new platform for economic and cultural growth;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, As the tenth largest European economy, Poland is a
18 sizeable and important commercial partner of the United States in
19 Central Europe; and

20 WHEREAS, The Polish-American economic and cultural connection
21 lies within strong student exchange programs and growing business and
22 trade relations; and

1 WHEREAS, There are an estimated nine million Poles living in
2 the United States, with Washington State having its own large
3 Polish population of one hundred twenty-seven thousand; and

4 WHEREAS, Polish Home Association (Polish Cultural Center) in
5 Seattle was established in 1918 to provide immigrants with
6 programs and services to help Poles adapt to their new lives in
7 America; and

8 WHEREAS, The Polish Cultural Center has focused on
9 education, cultural, and economic support services for more than
10 one hundred years, fostering a strong Polish-American community;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The Polish community in the year 2000 established
13 the Seattle Polish Foundation, an organization devoted to
14 fostering interest in Polish heritage and spreading awareness of
15 the accomplishments of Polish-Americans; and

16 WHEREAS, In the State of Washington, in 2003, the University
17 of Washington Polish Studies Endowment Committee was founded
18 with the goal of cultivating, enhancing, and promoting the
19 understanding of the Polish language, culture, and arts;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State
21 of Washington commemorate one hundred years of diplomatic
22 relations between Poland and the United States; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of the strong
24 Polish-American community in the State of Washington be
25 recognized for the work they have done to preserve their culture
26 and heritage and to contribute to the local society.

27 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
28 do hereby certify that this is a true and
29 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8695,
30 adopted by the Senate
31 February 27, 2020

32 BRAD HENDRICKSON
33 Secretary of the Senate