

SENATE RESOLUTION

8700

By Senator Liias

1 WHEREAS, Claire Beach began her career promoting media literacy
2 in the 1980s in Boston, running a city-wide youth program called "The
3 Demystification of Television," which broke down the audience and
4 message of commercials; and

5 WHEREAS, This led Claire to a career in documentary filmmaking
6 where she worked on films about peace issues with other women, their
7 work then being immortalized in the Harvard Library; and

8 WHEREAS, Inspired by the birth of her son Jesse in 1987, she
9 honed her focus on media literacy, producing and hosting a live
10 public affairs show on violence in children's television which won a
11 Commonwealth of Massachusetts outstanding Public Affairs Program
12 Award; and

13 WHEREAS, Claire began her teaching career in the Seattle and
14 Edmonds communities in 1995, and is a valuable and beloved member of
15 the Edmonds community, having inspired and impacted the lives of
16 hundreds of students over her many years of service; and

17 WHEREAS, As a teacher, artist, and activist who has consistently
18 worked to lift up the voices and experiences of young people, Claire
19 has imparted to her students a way of thinking that encourages
20 critical analysis, courageous conversations about difficult topics,
21 and art as a form of social change; and

22 WHEREAS, Claire has a sincere passion for and deep knowledge of
23 the field of media literacy and scholarship, and understands the

1 importance of teaching students how to evaluate films, TV, print
2 news, and other media for accuracy, messaging, and value; and

3 WHEREAS, Claire's love for media literacy and her students
4 led to her becoming a member, and later the president, of Action
5 for Media Education, where she worked on several media literacy-
6 based projects and grants through the Washington State
7 Department of Health; and

8 WHEREAS, This passion led Claire to engage with her
9 representatives in the Legislature on the issue, and as a result
10 of her tireless efforts to expand access to media literacy
11 curricula for students in her district and across the state,
12 Washington has been recognized as a leader among all fifty
13 states in the realm of media literacy education, developing a
14 national model for helping students develop the skills to
15 navigate an increasingly digitized world and become engaged,
16 informed, and empowered 21st century citizens; and

17 WHEREAS, In 2017, Claire began a new fight against ovarian
18 cancer, but has refused to let her work in the classroom stop,
19 continuing to serve as a substitute saying "chemo heals my
20 cancer, teaching heals my soul"; and

21 WHEREAS, Claire views her work with young people as a part
22 of her healing and has drawn strength from continuing to teach
23 even after her diagnoses and treatments;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate recognize
25 the incredible contributions that Claire Beach has made to our
26 state as a result of her tireless advocacy and efforts to
27 improve media literacy in Washington, resulting in our state
28 creating one of the most comprehensive media literacy programs
29 in the country; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our profound
31 admiration for Claire's strength in the face of her illness and
32 that we send her strength and fortitude as she continues her
33 work teaching the next generation about the importance of media
34 literacy and digital citizenship; and

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
36 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Claire
37 Beach and her son Jesse Douglas-Tesch.

1 I, Brad Hendrickson, Secretary of the Senate,
2 do hereby certify that this is a true and
3 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8700,
4 adopted by the Senate
5 February 27, 2020

6 BRAD HENDRICKSON
7 Secretary of the Senate