

SENATE RESOLUTION

8648

By Senators Keiser and King

1       WHEREAS, Vickie Kennedy began her 50-plus year career with the  
2 Washington State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) in 1971 as an  
3 eager file clerk; and

4       WHEREAS, Vickie received her first accolades when her supervisor  
5 stated in her first evaluation that she had an excellent attitude and  
6 showed a lot of initiative by looking for better ways to do her job  
7 and improve her performance; and

8       WHEREAS, Vickie devoted her entire career to L&I, holding  
9 numerous positions, including secretary, editorial assistant, claims  
10 adjudicator, supervisor, program manager, assistant director for  
11 legislative and governmental affairs, and assistant director for  
12 insurance services; and

13       WHEREAS, Vickie has often referred to herself as a "workers'  
14 compensation policy geek"; and

15       WHEREAS, Many of Vickie's colleagues and staff have heard her  
16 proclaim that leading the workers' compensation system since 2013 has  
17 been her "dream job" because she was driven to make a difference for  
18 injured workers; and

19       WHEREAS, Vickie was always known for recognizing others for their  
20 accomplishments, especially at Public Service Recognition Week events  
21 for her staff where she was famous for photobombing; and

1       WHEREAS, Vickie was known as the unofficial ringleader for L&I  
2       Seahawks fans, bringing hundreds together for group photos on Blue  
3       Fridays in the agency's rotunda; and

4       WHEREAS, Vickie will be remembered for signing staff birthday  
5       cards with personalized "Roses are Red" poems; and

6       WHEREAS, Vickie received the 2016 Governor's Award for Leadership  
7       in Management for helping injured workers return to meaningful work  
8       rather than a life of disability, which helped reduce the rate of  
9       long-term disability from workplace injuries by more than nearly 15  
10      percent; and

11      WHEREAS, Vickie was awarded the 2017 Joe Dear Agent of Change  
12      Award presented by L&I Director Joel Sacks for her outstanding  
13      leadership, commitment to public service, and making a difference;  
14      and

15      WHEREAS, Vickie sits on the Board of Directors for the  
16      International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and  
17      Commissions (IAIABC) and also chairs its Work Disability Prevention  
18      and Return to Work Committee; and

19      WHEREAS, Vickie received the international Frances Perkins  
20      President's Award in 2021 from the IAIABC for demonstrating  
21      commitment and achievement in advancing workers' compensation systems  
22      throughout the world; and

23      WHEREAS, Vickie received the Comp Laude award in 2021 from  
24      workcompcentral.com for being a thought leader and embodying the Comp  
25      Laude mission: To change the narrative of the workers' compensation  
26      industry to a more positive dialogue; and

27      WHEREAS, Vickie's visionary approach to helping injured workers  
28      heal and return to work has helped them lead meaningful and  
29      productive lives while reducing the number of long-term disabled  
30      cases, cutting premium costs for workers and employers, and saving  
31      the workers' compensation system more than a billion dollars; and

32      WHEREAS, Vickie has become a national leader in reducing work  
33      disability by demonstrating the effectiveness of engaging workers in  
34      a return-to-work mindset early in the claim process and making it  
35      easier for workers to return to work; and

36      WHEREAS, Vickie led a team that has helped more than one million  
37      injured workers during her time as assistant director; and

38      WHEREAS, Vickie is the single most trusted voice with L&I's  
39      leadership and staff across the agency, external stakeholders, and

1 legislators on workers' compensation policy and approaches to improve  
2 Washington's system for employers and injured workers;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
4 express its deepest gratitude for more than 50 years of service and  
5 sacrifice that Vickie Kennedy has given to both L&I and the State of  
6 Washington; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
8 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Vickie  
9 Kennedy.

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