

SENATE RESOLUTION

8648

By Senators Keiser, King, Conway, and Wellman

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
2 L&I Seahawks fans, bringing hundreds together for group photos
3 on Blue Fridays in the agency's rotunda; and

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

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

11 WHEREAS, Vickie was awarded the 2017 Joe Dear Agent of
12 Change Award presented by L&I Director Joel Sacks for her
13 outstanding leadership, commitment to public service, and making
14 a difference; 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
18 Prevention 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
22 systems 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
25 Comp Laude mission: To change the narrative of the workers'
26 compensation industry to a more positive dialogue; and

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

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

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

4 WHEREAS, Vickie is the single most trusted voice with L&I's
5 leadership and staff across the agency, external stakeholders,
6 and legislators on workers' compensation policy and approaches
7 to improve Washington's system for employers and injured
8 workers;

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

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
14 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Vickie
15 Kennedy.

16 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,
17 do hereby certify that this is a true and
18 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8648,
19 adopted by the Senate
20 March 9, 2022

21 SARAH BANNISTER
22 Secretary of the Senate