

SENATE RESOLUTION

8651

By Senator Fortunato

1       WHEREAS, The Democratic Republic of Congo sent a congressional  
2 delegation to Washington state, extending a hand of friendship to  
3 create stronger trade and economic partnerships; and

4       WHEREAS, The delegation toured our state's agricultural centers,  
5 manufacturing facilities, and visited the Grand Coulee Dam and other  
6 infrastructural sites; and

7       WHEREAS, The Democratic Republic of Congo is making great strides  
8 to improve the social and economic welfare of its people with a  
9 renewed commitment to democratic principles, emerging from a period  
10 of internal strife that has seen the displacement of millions of  
11 Congolese; and

12       WHEREAS, Washington state has warmly received these immigrants  
13 who number in the top five of resettled populations to our state,  
14 with an estimated 8,000 Congolese refugees who live, work, and call  
15 Washington state home; and

16       WHEREAS, These refugees are served by the Congolese Integration  
17 Network, which was founded five years ago to facilitate the social,  
18 economic, cultural, and spiritual integration of Congolese immigrants  
19 and refugees into American society by providing access to critical  
20 resources to empower this community; and

21       WHEREAS, The network continues to advocate for resources to  
22 support its community in the construction of a healing center where

1 those suffering from trauma can feel safe and recover from their  
2 mental, physical, and spiritual wounds;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate  
4 recognize the progress of the fledgling democracy in the Democratic  
5 Republic of Congo working toward the betterment of its citizens and  
6 to promote peace and justice and highlight the work of the Congolese  
7 Integration Network in its efforts to support refugees in Washington.

--- END ---