

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2024-4678, by Representatives Farivar and Waters

1           WHEREAS, The Persian New Year, or Nowruz, originated in the  
2 Iranian plateau more than 3,000 years ago and is celebrated annually  
3 marking the Spring Equinox in the northern hemisphere, which this  
4 year will fall on March 19th at 8:06 p.m.; and

5           WHEREAS, Nowruz is a significant cultural holiday for individuals  
6 in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and many other  
7 countries which is celebrated by nearly 300 million people across the  
8 globe of different faiths and cultures, particularly in and by more  
9 than 1 million Americans, including tens of thousands in Washington  
10 state; and

11           WHEREAS, Nowruz welcomes spring and regrowth after winter and  
12 periods of cold and dormancy and it celebrates nature, life, and  
13 opportunity for regrowth and blossoming; and

14           WHEREAS, In this time where mistrust and fear often threaten to  
15 divide us, the spirit of Nowruz inspires us to realize our  
16 commonalities and strive for new levels of compassion, understanding,  
17 and love for our fellow human beings irrespective of religion or  
18 ethnicity; and

19           WHEREAS, Many Middle Eastern and Central Asian individuals  
20 immigrate to Washington to flee persecution for their beliefs,  
21 seeking personal and religious freedoms in the United States; and

22           WHEREAS, Middle Eastern and Central Asians are an important part  
23 of our communities and continue to make noteworthy and lasting

1 contributions to Washington state through their leadership in  
2 business, government, higher education, medicine, military service,  
3 law, social justice, and many other arenas; and

4 WHEREAS, Nowruz presents a fitting opportunity to recognize these  
5 contributions and the resilience of the Middle Eastern and Central  
6 Asian communities who continue to advocate for their communities; and

7 WHEREAS, Nowruz is a time for all of us to come together to  
8 reflect on the year that has passed and celebrate the universal  
9 values of generosity, compassion, selflessness, and community  
10 stewardship in the year ahead;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
12 celebrate the honored holiday of Nowruz; recognize the historical and  
13 cultural significance thereof; stand with the communities that  
14 celebrate Nowruz in times of crisis and in times of celebration; and  
15 wish a happy and prosperous new year to all.

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