

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-4608, by Representatives Pollet and Orcutt

1       WHEREAS, It has been the tradition of the Washington State House  
2 of Representatives to honor significant and important contributions  
3 made by employees; and

4       WHEREAS, Keenan Konopaski retired as Washington's Legislative  
5 Auditor on January 4, 2023, following a thirty-one year career in  
6 public service, with eighteen of those years serving the Legislature  
7 through his work at the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee  
8 (JLARC); and

9       WHEREAS, While serving under the direction of eight different  
10 JLARC chairs, Keenan consistently displayed a commitment to rigorous,  
11 nonpartisan, objective analysis that has benefited the Legislature,  
12 state agencies, and the people of Washington; and

13       WHEREAS, Keenan oversaw performance audits that together  
14 addressed nearly every facet of state government, including  
15 competency to stand trial, highway maintenance and preservation, K-12  
16 health benefits, low-income housing, worker's compensation,  
17 unemployment benefits, Medicaid, wildfire suppression, and more; and

18       WHEREAS, Keenan led JLARC and the Citizens Commission for the  
19 Performance Measurement of Tax Preferences in developing one of the  
20 nation's first state-level systematic reviews of tax preferences,  
21 through which he oversaw two hundred and seventy-seven reviews of  
22 preferences pertaining to agriculture, aerospace, manufacturing,  
23 education, and more; and

1           WHEREAS, Keenan ensured that the Legislature had relevant and  
2 timely information on demand by shifting reports from print to  
3 online, adding interactive tools and different formats; and

4           WHEREAS, To improve visibility of reports and foster  
5 implementation of recommendations, Keenan created a policy of  
6 notifying committee chairs and ranking members of audit reports on  
7 subjects within their committees' jurisdiction; and

8           WHEREAS, Keenan's insight and dedication to leading-edge  
9 approaches brought national recognition for JLARC's work, earning  
10 three awards for excellence in research methods, twelve certificates  
11 of impact, and four notable document awards from the National  
12 Conference of State Legislatures, as well as invitations for JLARC  
13 staff members to share their work at national conferences; and

14           WHEREAS, Keenan has improved the efficiency and effectiveness of  
15 state government for all Washingtonians, as agencies implemented over  
16 ninety percent of the one hundred seventy-five recommendations issued  
17 to agencies under his leadership as Legislative Auditor; and

18           WHEREAS, Keenan led the effort to incorporate racial-equity  
19 analyses into all JLARC performance audits; and

20           WHEREAS, Keenan's commitment to professional development has  
21 benefited the sixty-nine current and former JLARC staff and interns  
22 that served under him, and instilled a dedication to producing well-  
23 researched, easily understandable, and relevant work for the  
24 Legislature; and

25           WHEREAS, Keenan's willingness to carry on the long-standing  
26 office tradition of having a pink flamingo mascot has resulted in  
27 numerous purchases of pink flamingo mugs, pens, stuffed animals,  
28 statues, cake toppers, trivets, towels, and flashing lights; and

29           WHEREAS, Keenan's retirement as Legislative Auditor does not end  
30 his state service, as he will continue to serve the citizens of  
31 Washington as an adjunct professor at The Evergreen State College and  
32 help develop the next generation of public servants, which hopefully  
33 will include future JLARC research analysts; and

34           WHEREAS, Keenan will be missed, but his retirement is well-  
35 deserved and we wish him all the best and many camping trips and  
36 travels with his family;

