

SENATE RESOLUTION

8637

By Senators Liiias, Hasegawa, Saldaña, and Wagoner

1       WHEREAS; Ahmad Hilal Abid, born in Kabul, Afghanistan, immigrated  
2 to Lynnwood, Washington at age seventeen to join his family who'd  
3 relocated earlier; and

4       WHEREAS; Abid began learning English at Edmonds College and  
5 volunteering with local mosques and churches; and

6       WHEREAS, In 2020, Abid started teaching a class of 20 immigrant  
7 and refugee students in the garage of his family's house, helping  
8 them learn English and complete their classwork; and

9       WHEREAS, Abid named his class the House of Wisdom after a great  
10 library built by Caliph Haround Al-Rasheed in 8th century Baghdad,  
11 where people from many faiths and regions of the world studied and  
12 shared knowledge with each other; and

13       WHEREAS, Abid has since expanded his class from his garage into a  
14 larger rental space, recruiting volunteer staff to provide tutoring  
15 in numerous subjects to students, as well as organizing recreational  
16 activities and other community events; and

17       WHEREAS, Abid's House of Wisdom lives up to its namesake, serving  
18 as a place where young people adapting to a new country, culture, and  
19 language can find support and community; and

20       WHEREAS, Abid has earned an Associate of Arts degree at Edmonds  
21 College and is now working toward a paralegal degree, while also  
22 serving as a student leader on campus; and

1           WHEREAS, In a few short years, Abid has transformed from a  
2 new immigrant in an unfamiliar country to a cornerstone of  
3 Lynnwood's growing Afghan immigrant and refugee community;

4           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State  
5 Senate recognize Ahmad Hilal Abid for his service to Lynnwood's  
6 refugee and immigrant community and to the community of Edmonds  
7 College, and for his commitment to promoting his values of  
8 diversity, equality, and fairness. His accomplishments embody  
9 his belief that, "if we put our hands and minds together and  
10 accept our difference, we will be able to restore the House of  
11 Wisdom and spread knowledge and love through community and bring  
12 people together from different ethnicities and faiths."; and

13           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
14 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Ahmad  
15 Hilal Abid, the House of Wisdom, and to the President and Board  
16 of Trustees of Edmonds College.

17 I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate,  
18 do hereby certify that this is a true and  
19 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8637,  
20 adopted by the Senate  
21 April 4, 2023

22 SARAH BANNISTER  
23 Secretary of the Senate