

SENATE RESOLUTION

8657

By Senators Padden, Miloscia, Hargrove, Rolfes, Billig, Parlette, Bailey, King, Chase, Hewitt, Becker, Brown, Warnick, O'Ban, Conway, Hasegawa, Hatfield, Fraser, Kohl-Welles, Dammeier, Darneille, Angel, Roach, Schoesler, Keiser, Sheldon, and Nelson

1 WHEREAS, Down syndrome occurs when there are three, rather than
2 two, copies of the 21st chromosome in an individual; and

3 WHEREAS, There are over 400,000 people living with Down syndrome
4 in the United States, making it the most commonly occurring
5 chromosomal condition and a significant cause of intellectual and
6 developmental delay, with one in every 691 babies born with Down
7 syndrome; and

8 WHEREAS, Down syndrome occurs in people across all economic
9 levels and races, with 80 percent of children born with Down syndrome
10 born to women under age 35; and

11 WHEREAS, The life expectancy for people with Down syndrome has
12 increased to age 60, when in 1983 people with Down syndrome were
13 expected only to live to be 25; and

14 WHEREAS, We should encourage citizens to work together to promote
15 respect towards, and to celebrate the accomplishments and
16 contributions of, individuals with Down syndrome, so these
17 individuals can achieve their goals, take pride in their
18 achievements, and reach their fullest potential; and

19 WHEREAS, Tremendous work is being done by organizations such as
20 the Down Syndrome Community and The Arc of Washington State to
21 protect the right to equality, inclusion, education, and support for
22 people with Down syndrome across the state; and

1 WHEREAS, Eric Matthes is a self-advocate with Down syndrome
2 who works for The Arc of King County, where he is a powerful
3 voice on behalf of people with Down syndrome as the president of
4 People First of Washington, where his professionalism and
5 interpersonal skills have served the local community and
6 increased awareness in the greater Seattle area and around the
7 state; and

8 WHEREAS, Individuals with Down syndrome have proudly
9 represented Washington State in the Special Olympics, where
10 Heather Comer of Spokane Valley was a Gold Medalist in alpine
11 downhill skiing at the 2013 Special Olympics World Games in
12 South Korea, she was the 2013 Washington State Athlete of the
13 Year, and she is a board member on the Special Olympics and the
14 Arc of Spokane, Mallory Smith of Tacoma competed in basketball,
15 cycling, golf, and bowling, and Angela Martin of Seattle served
16 with the board of directors with the Special Olympics for nine
17 years and competed in alpine skiing and aquatics; and

18 WHEREAS, The work of human and civil rights activists around
19 the United States and the world have paved the avenues whereby
20 people with Down syndrome can attend local schools, get married,
21 maintain jobs, live at home, receive appropriate health care,
22 and lead fulfilling, integrated lives;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State
24 Senate recognize and honor these exemplary individuals with Down
25 syndrome and the dedicated communities that wholeheartedly
26 support them; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
28 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Eric
29 Matthes, president of People First of Washington; Sean King,
30 president of the Down Syndrome Community; and Sue Elliott,
31 executive director of The Arc of Washington State.

32 I, Hunter G. Goodman, Secretary of the Senate,
33 do hereby certify that this is a true and
34 correct copy of Senate Resolution 8657,
35 adopted by the Senate
36 April 10, 2015

- 1 HUNTER G. GOODMAN
- 2 Secretary of the Senate