

SENATE RESOLUTION

8687

By Senator Hasegawa

1 WHEREAS, Northwest Center was founded in 1965 by parents who  
2 chose to keep their children with developmental disabilities in the  
3 community and who challenged the prevailing notion that their  
4 children could not be taught; and

5 WHEREAS, These parents hired their own teachers to develop  
6 special needs education programs and found that their children could  
7 indeed learn; and

8 WHEREAS, The parents who formed Northwest Center also authored  
9 and won approval of civil rights legislation that opened the doors of  
10 Washington state schools to all children. This was the first such law  
11 in the nation and served as the model for federal legislation; and

12 WHEREAS, Northwest Center continues its mission to the present  
13 day by promoting the growth, development, and independence of  
14 children and adults with developmental disabilities through programs  
15 of education, rehabilitation, and work opportunity. In doing so, it  
16 touches the lives of nearly 1000 families annually; and

17 WHEREAS, Northwest Center has made a substantial difference in  
18 the lives of children and adults in Washington state. For example, in  
19 2014 the center's work resulted in: An 18.3 percent increase in  
20 Seattle job placement and a 211 percent increase in Spokane job  
21 placement; over 130 children from ages birth to three receiving Early  
22 Intervention Services; and over 150 clients receiving job coaching  
23 and ongoing support in the work place; and

1       WHEREAS, The social enterprise model of the Northwest Center  
2 allows its programs to thrive through a sustainable combination of  
3 philanthropy, profits from its own inclusive businesses, donations  
4 collected by "The Big Blue Truck," and program revenue; and

5       WHEREAS, Northwest Center never turns a child away from services  
6 due to the severity of their disability or their family's ability to  
7 pay; and

8       WHEREAS, Northwest Center has developed an innovative Expanded  
9 School to Work pilot project within the Issaquah School  
10 District. This program allows Northwest Center to begin School to  
11 Work services for students a year earlier than the traditional  
12 program. As a result more students with special needs will be placed  
13 in well-matched, meaningful, steady jobs; and

14       WHEREAS, 2015 is the 50th anniversary of Northwest Center which  
15 has grown to become the largest community service organization  
16 serving children and adults of all abilities in the Pacific  
17 Northwest;

18       NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate congratulate  
19 Northwest Center on 50 years of service to the developmentally  
20 disabled community and recognize and honor Northwest Center for its  
21 remarkable work in providing important services for children and  
22 adults with developmental disabilities in this state; and

23       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be  
24 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Northwest  
25 Center.

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