

FORTY SIXTH DAY

MORNING SESSION

Senate Chamber, Olympia
Thursday, February 27, 2025

The Senate was called to order at 10 o'clock p.m. by the President of the Senate, Lt. Governor Heck presiding. No roll call was taken.

MOTIONS

On motion of Senator Riccelli, the reading of the Journal of the previous day was dispensed with and it was approved.

On motion of Senator Riccelli, the Senate advanced to the third order of business.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR
GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS

February 25, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE, THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honor to submit the following appointment, subject to your confirmation.

BRIAN RYBARIK, appointed March 3, 2025, for the term ending January 1, 2031, as a Chair of the Utilities and Transportation Commission.

Sincerely,

BOB FERGUSON, Governor

Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology as Senate Gubernatorial Appointment No. 9225.

MOTIONS

On motion of Senator Riccelli, the appointee listed on the Gubernatorial Appointment report was referred to the committee as designated.

On motion of Senator Riccelli, the Senate advanced to the eighth order of business.

Senator Fortunato moved adoption of the following resolution:

SENATE RESOLUTION
8622

By Senator Fortunato

WHEREAS, There are nearly 7,000 diseases and conditions considered rare (each affecting fewer than 200,000 Americans) in the United States, according to the National Institutes of Health; and

WHEREAS, While each of these diseases may affect small numbers of people, rare diseases as a group affect 25,000,000-30,000,000 Americans and 750,000 Washingtonians; and

WHEREAS, Many rare diseases are serious and debilitating conditions that have a significant impact on the lives of those affected; and

WHEREAS, The Food and Drug Administration has approved drugs and biologics for more than 880 rare disease indications, but millions of Americans still have rare diseases for which there is no approved treatment; and

WHEREAS, Individuals and families affected by rare diseases often experience problems such as diagnosis delay, difficulty finding a medical expert, and lack of access to treatments or ancillary services; and

WHEREAS, While the public is familiar with some rare diseases and sympathetic to those affected, many patients and families affected by less widely known rare diseases bear a large share of the burden of funding research and raising public awareness to support the search for treatments; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of residents of Washington are among those affected by rare diseases since nearly one in 10 Americans has a rare disease; and

WHEREAS, The Orphan Drug Act has encouraged and promoted the discovery and development of biopharmaceuticals designed to treat and even cure rare diseases; and

WHEREAS, Many of the world-leading academic institutions, academic medical centers, biotech companies, and pharmaceutical companies conducting research and seeking cures for rare diseases are doing so in Washington;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington state Senate commend the endeavor of finding cures for rare diseases and encourage all Washingtonians to recognize the struggle of those afflicted and their families and commit to a future of hope through compassionate care for our neighbors and scientific discovery.

Senator Fortunato spoke in favor of adoption of the resolution.

The President declared the question before the Senate to be the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 8622.

The motion by Senator Fortunato carried and the resolution was adopted by voice vote.

MOTION

Senator Ramos moved adoption of the following resolution:

SENATE RESOLUTION
8620

By Senator Ramos

WHEREAS, The students of the Tahoma High School enrolled in the "We the People: The Citizen and Constitution" program consistently showcase superior knowledge of the Constitution of the United States and the lessons instilled by our Founding Fathers; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, January 18, 2025, the team from Tahoma High School won the state We the People competition, the school's 16th consecutive state championship, and its 27th state championship in the last 29 years; and

WHEREAS, These students will represent Washington state this spring at the 38th annual We the People finals in Washington, D.C., where they aspire to go beyond their outstanding top five finish in the national competition last year; and

WHEREAS, The Tahoma High School We the People team is coached by Gretchen Wulfig, the distinguished educator whom was honored in 2011 with Washington's Civic Educator of the Year award, and honored again in 2016 as one of Washington's Civic Educators of the Year, adding to the honors of her 18 year academic coaching career, wherein she diligently expands her students' knowledge of the United States Constitution and Bill of

Rights, ensuring important principles and foundational ideas are passed on with fervor and intellectual poise to the next generation; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that students who participate in the We the People program demonstrate the ideals of democracy and civic engagement, register to vote at a higher rate than their high school counterparts, perform better in examinations on civic knowledge, and lead through community involvement, tolerant political engagement, and respect for the due process of law; and

WHEREAS, The Tahoma High School We the People team, led by the inspiring passion of their coach, continues to exemplify excellence in civic education, of which their distinguished record at the national level, placing Top 10 in the Nation for 9 out of the past 11 years, is an undeniable testament to their commitment and repeated success;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate honor Nathan Andualet, Vritika Bhuvu, Alicia Cantu, Lucas Chabaud, John Chamberlain, Requin Drier, Reid Gardner, Shravya Gupta, Sirin Khan, Ryan Kim, Samuel Lindell, Timothy McNey, Carly Menchaca, Esmeralda Murillo-Reyes, Diya Nampy, Oakley Palmer, Ruby Santos, Pranaav Sund, Elena Warner, Nathan Wengreen, Yeabesira Wesenyeleh, Gunnar Wheaton, Macy Whitt, Allison Zappe, and Sumaiyya Zunairah as "Warriors of the Constitution"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the members of Tahoma High School's We the People team, team

advisor Gretchen Wulfing, and Tahoma High School Principal Judy Beliveau to convey the respect of this body for excellence in civic education.

Senators Ramos and Fortunato spoke in favor of adoption of the resolution.

The President declared the question before the Senate to be the adoption of Senate Resolution No. 8620.

The motion by Senator Ramos carried and the resolution was adopted by voice vote.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

The President welcomed and introduced members of the Ms. Gretchen Wulfing and the Tahoma High School We The People team who were seated in the gallery.

MOTION

At 10:14 a.m., on motion of Senator Riccelli, the Senate adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. Friday, February 28, 2025.

DENNY HECK, President of the Senate

SARAH BANNISTER, Secretary of the Senate

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