

SENATE RESOLUTION

8627

By Senator Fortunato

1 WHEREAS, The Democratic Republic of Congo has been embroiled in a
2 civil war since 1996 resulting in untold trauma and human rights
3 abuses; and

4 WHEREAS, International observers have concluded over 4,000,000
5 people have lost their lives between 1998 and now, and more than
6 2,000,000 Congolese people have been displaced from their homes; and

7 WHEREAS, Few have been able to escape the conflict, survivors
8 have experienced brutal violence, forced displacement, and economic
9 and social destruction; and

10 WHEREAS, Washington State has warmly received these immigrants
11 who number in the top 5 of resettled populations to our state and top
12 1 nationally; and

13 WHEREAS, An estimated 8,000 Congolese refugees live, work and
14 call Washington state home, they are served by the Congolese
15 Integration Network; and

16 WHEREAS, The Congolese Integration Network was founded 5 years
17 ago to facilitate the social, economic, cultural, and spiritual
18 integration of Congolese immigrants and refugees into American
19 society by providing access to critical resources to empower this
20 community; and

21 WHEREAS, The Congolese Integration Network continues to advocate
22 for resources to support the refugee community in the construction of

1 a Healing Center where those suffering from trauma can feel safe and
2 recover from their mental, physical, and spiritual wounds;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate
4 recognize the work of the Congolese Integration Network, their
5 efforts to support refugees in Washington fleeing violence and
6 oppression, and individuals working to alleviate their plight,
7 fighting for justice and peace.

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