

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2023-4629, by Representatives Farivar, Waters, Berry, Slatter, Ryu, Taylor, Fitzgibbon, Duerr, Timmons, Orwall, Springer, Thai, Leavitt, Cortes, Mena, Gregerson, Macri, Callan, Kloba, Bateman, Reeves, Goodman, Bronoske, Barnard, Ybarra, Robertson, Walen, Fosse, Stearns, Pollet, Senn, Connors, Mosbrucker, Cheney, Corry, Simmons, Eslick, Chapman, Hackney, and Ramos

1 WHEREAS, The Persian New Year, or Nowruz, originated in the
2 Iranian plateau more than 3,000 years ago and is celebrated annually
3 marking the Spring Equinox in the northern hemisphere, which this
4 year fell on March 20th at 2:24 p.m.; and

5 WHEREAS, Nowruz is a significant cultural holiday for individuals
6 in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan which is celebrated
7 by nearly 300 million people across the globe of different faiths and
8 cultures, particularly in and by more than 1 million Americans,
9 including tens of thousands in Washington state; and

10 WHEREAS, Nowruz welcomes spring and regrowth after winter and
11 periods of cold and dormancy and it celebrates nature, life, and
12 opportunity for regrowth and blossoming; and

13 WHEREAS, In this time where mistrust and fear often threaten to
14 divide us, the spirit of Nowruz inspires us to realize our
15 commonalities and strive for new levels of compassion, understanding,
16 and love for our fellow human beings irrespective of religion or
17 ethnicity; and

18 WHEREAS, Many Middle Eastern and Central Asian individuals
19 immigrate to Washington to flee persecution for their beliefs,
20 seeking personal and religious freedoms in the United States; and

21 WHEREAS, Middle Eastern and Central Asians are an important part
22 of our communities and continue to make noteworthy and lasting
23 contributions to Washington state through their leadership in

1 business, government, higher education, medicine, military service,
2 law, social justice, and many other arenas; and

3 WHEREAS, Nowruz presents a fitting opportunity to recognize these
4 contributions and the resilience of the Iranian-American and Afghan-
5 American communities who continue to advocate for their communities;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, Nowruz is a time for all of us to come together to
8 reflect on the year that has passed and celebrate the universal
9 values of generosity, compassion, selflessness, and community
10 stewardship in the year ahead;

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives
12 celebrate the honored holiday of Nowruz; recognize the historical and
13 cultural significance thereof; stand with the communities that
14 celebrate Nowruz in times of crisis and in times of celebration; and
15 wish a happy and prosperous new year to all.

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