

RESOLUTION TO ADVANCE HISTORICAL RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES IN OUR SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, Individuals with Disabilities constitute the largest minority group in America, yet their experiences and contributions remain largely absent from our historical narratives, disregarding diversity, non-normative perspectives, and atypical conditions.

WHEREAS, Several states, including California (2011), Maryland (2017), New York (2014), New Jersey (2018), and Pennsylvania (2020), have successfully integrated disability history into their school curricula. Acknowledging the historical barriers to education and employment faced by individuals with disabilities, it is evident that discrimination and exclusion from mainstream society persist.

WHEREAS, The education system holds a crucial role in promoting the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in society, and the inclusion of disability history in the curriculum serves as a means to foster understanding and inclusivity.

WHEREAS, Washington State recognizes the importance of disability history by establishing Disability History Month under [RCW 28A.230.158](#), which aims to raise awareness and promote the inclusion of disability history within the educational framework.

WHEREAS, [Emerging America](#) conducted an extensive online survey of teachers across 12 states, including Washington, revealing that more than 85% of teachers teach zero or only a minimal amount of focused disability history, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive instruction on this subject.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that The Washington 36th District Democrats affirm our unwavering commitment to fostering inclusive education and promoting the integration of individuals with disabilities into the school system. It is imperative that all students receive appropriate instruction to cultivate empathy and respect, enabling them to become valuable members of society.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we advocate for the implementation of age-appropriate, historically accurate, and evidence-based instruction regarding individuals with disabilities. This

instruction should encompass physical and cognitive disabilities, emphasize the development and enactment of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and highlight the history of individuals with disabilities in the United States and Washington State. We urge that such instruction be included in the curriculum of school districts, accredited non-public schools, and charter schools across Washington State, with the aim of fostering understanding, respect, and inclusion.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we support and endorse the efforts of Disability History Month under [RCW 28A.230.158](#) to raise awareness and promote the inclusion of disability history in educational programs throughout Washington State.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that we acknowledge the findings of the survey conducted by [Emerging America](#), which reveals the alarming lack of focused disability history instruction in schools across multiple states, including Washington. We call for immediate action to rectify this situation and ensure that comprehensive disability history is taught to provide a well-rounded education to all students.

Passed by the 36th District Democrats _____

Incepted by Jayson Todd Morris