By Senators Warnick, Becker, Schoesler, King, Short, Fortunato, Hawkins, O'Ban, Rivers, Walsh, Honeyford, Bailey, Wagoner, Zeiger, Holy, and Wilson, L.

1 WHEREAS, Indian Americans who call Washington state home are part 2 of the 3.5 million individuals who make up the United States Indian 3 Diaspora; and

4 WHEREAS, The youth of this community have preserved and helped 5 the rich Indian culture continue to thrive; and

6 WHEREAS, The Miss India USA and Miss India Worldwide pageants, 7 organized by the New York-based India Festival Committee, are 8 cornerstones of instilling Indian values, traditions, and culture 9 among Indian-origin youths; and

10 WHEREAS, The Miss India USA and Miss India Worldwide pageants are 11 part of the oldest and largest events for the Indian Diaspora 12 community; and

WHEREAS, Shree Saini, 22, of Moses Lake won the 37th annual Miss India USA pageant, where she represented Washington, competing with 52 contestants from across the nation; and

16 WHEREAS, Shree Saini went on to represent and win for the United 17 States at the 27th annual Miss India Worldwide pageant, which 18 included young women from the Indian communities in over 42 19 countries; and

20 WHEREAS, Shree Saini was told by her doctors that she could never 21 dance after being installed with a pacemaker at the age of 12, but 22 persevered through these challenges and volunteers her time to work 23 with the American Heart Association; and 1 WHEREAS, Her efforts in promoting her two main charitable causes, 2 heart disease and mental health, since the age of 15, have earned her 3 the respect and admiration of those in her community; and

WHEREAS, Her advocacy for mental health and emotional well-being through thousands of articles and hundreds of speeches delivered in over 70 cities, 11 states, and 4 countries, has touched countless lives; and

8 WHEREAS, Her enterprise as Shree Investments in the city of 9 George, Washington, is a recipient of over 500 certificates of 10 appreciation from regional organizations over its 11 years of 11 business, and the recipient of the Corporations for Communities Award 12 and the National Association of Secretaries of State Medal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington State Senate recognize Shree Saini for her longtime advocacy and promotion of Indian culture, and commend her leadership and philanthropy in devotion to Washington State and the Indian community; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be 18 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Shree 19 Saini.

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