

SENATE RESOLUTION

8645

By Senators Hunt, Wellman, and Brown

1 WHEREAS, The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association
2 (WIAA) was formed in 1905 to create equitable playing conditions
3 between high school sports teams in Washington; and

4 WHEREAS, The WIAA consists of nearly eight hundred member high
5 schools and middle/junior high schools; and

6 WHEREAS, WIAA oversees athletics and fine arts in the state of
7 Washington and hosts one hundred twenty state championship events
8 providing students with valuable life skills; and

9 WHEREAS, Mike Colbrese has served from 1993-2019 as Executive
10 Director of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association and
11 is retiring August 2019; and

12 WHEREAS, Mike began his career in 1971 as a high school
13 librarian, taught high school English for eleven years, and worked as
14 a high school and college football and basketball official for
15 fifteen years; and

16 WHEREAS, Prior to coming to Washington, Mike served six years as
17 the Commissioner of the Wyoming High School Activities Association
18 and five years as Assistant to the Executive Secretary of the Montana
19 High School Association; and

20 WHEREAS, Mike has had a distinguished forty-eight year career in
21 public education; and

22 WHEREAS, In his twenty-six years in Washington, Mike developed
23 the first in the nation policy outlining procedures and paths for

1 transgender students to participate in middle and high school sports;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Mike also helped draft the Zackery Lystedt Law, which
4 became the national model for concussion management, and was signed
5 into law in 2009 by Governor Christine Gregoire; and

6 WHEREAS, The Zackery Lystedt Law requires policies for the
7 management of concussion and head injury in youth sports and this
8 model has been adopted by all fifty states; and

9 WHEREAS, Mike has served on numerous national committees through
10 the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) and
11 served as a board member of that organization; and

12 WHEREAS, Mike also serves on the Special Olympics Washington
13 Board of Directors, and is a member of the Seattle 4 Rotary and the
14 Board of Commissioners of the Seattle Sports Commission; and

15 WHEREAS, Mike has received numerous honors including the 2019
16 NFHS Service Citation Award, one of the most highly regarded
17 achievements in high school athletics and performing arts, the
18 American Sport Education Program Pat McSwegin Award, and the NFHS
19 Interscholastic Officials Association National Distinguished
20 Contributor Award; and

21 WHEREAS, Mike has dedicated his professional life to furthering
22 middle and high school activities with passion and enthusiasm and has
23 championed the WIAA and the integral part athletics and fine arts
24 plays in the total education experience; and

25 WHEREAS, Mike has guided the WIAA into being recognized as one of
26 the top associations in the country;

27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Senate honor and thank
28 Mike Colbrese for his outstanding work and advocacy for
29 interscholastic activities, students, teachers, and coaches in
30 Washington and for his leadership at the state and national level;
31 and

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
33 immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to Mike
34 Colbrese and the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association.

--- END ---