

House Concurrent Resolution 23

Sponsored by Representative GELSER, Senators BATES, JOHNSON, TELFER; Representatives BAILEY, BARKER, BARNHART, BENTZ, BERGER, BEYER, BOONE, BREWER, BUCKLEY, CAMERON, CANNON, CLEM, CONGER, COWAN, DEMBROW, DOHERTY, ESQUIVEL, FREDERICK, FREEMAN, GARRARD, GARRETT, GILLIAM, GREENLICK, HANNA, HARKER, HICKS, HOLVEY, HOYLE, HUFFMAN, HUNT, JENSON, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, KOMP, KOTEK, KRIEGER, LINDSAY, MATTHEWS, MCLANE, NATHANSON, NOLAN, OLSON, PARRISH, READ, RICHARDSON, ROBLAN, SCHAUFLEER, SHEEHAN, G SMITH, J SMITH, SPRENGER, THATCHER, THOMPSON, TOMEI, WAND, WEIDNER, WHISNANT, WINGARD, WITT, Senators ATKINSON, BEYER, BONAMICI, BOQUIST, BURDICK, COURTNEY, DEVLIN, DINGFELDER, EDWARDS, FERRIOLI, GEORGE, GIROD, HASS, KRUSE, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, MORSE, NELSON, OLSEN, PROZANSKI, ROSENBAUM, SHIELDS, STARR, THOMSEN, VERGER, WHITSETT, WINTERS

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

In memoriam: Ben Westlund, 1949-2010.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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2 Whereas Ben Westlund was born on September 3, 1949, in Long Beach, California, and passed
3 away on March 7, 2010, in Bend, Oregon; and

4 Whereas Ben Westlund moved to Oregon as a teen with his parents, Bernard "Bud" and Dorothy
5 Westlund, and his two brothers, Richard and Morris; and

6 Whereas Ben Westlund graduated from Whitman College in 1972, where he earned degrees in
7 education and history; and

8 Whereas Ben Westlund married his wife, Libby Bishop, a high school classmate, in 1987, and
9 after selling their registered Hereford herd in 1990, they settled on the banks of the Deschutes River
10 in Tumalo, where they had two children, BJ and Taylor; and

11 Whereas Ben Westlund had a number of successful private sector businesses before he entered
12 public service, including a mining venture, marketing company, eastern Oregon cattle ranch and
13 cattle genetics operations, where his best-known prize-winning Hereford bull was named Reggie; and

14 Whereas Ben Westlund was a lifetime fan of baseball and specifically of the Los Angeles
15 Dodgers, and was also part-owner in the 1990s of a minor league baseball team called the Bend
16 Bandits; and

17 Whereas Ben Westlund was convinced by a friend to run for the Legislative Assembly and was
18 elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1996; and

19 Whereas Ben Westlund was appointed to the Senate in 2003 and successfully won election to the
20 seat in 2004 with the endorsement of both the Republican and Democratic Parties; and

21 Whereas Ben Westlund, in his 12 years in the Legislative Assembly, was a cochairperson of the
22 Joint Committee on Ways and Means during this state's 2001 fiscal crisis and spearheaded legis-
23 lation that created the Oregon Rainy Day Fund, the Public Safety Memorial Fund and the Oregon
24 Cultural Trust; and

25 Whereas Ben Westlund advocated for access to higher education for central Oregon and was the
26 chief legislative advocate for creating the Cascades Campus of Oregon State University; and

27 Whereas Ben Westlund valued good policy above politics and implored the Legislative Assembly

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 in 2003 to “stop being politicians who think only of the next election, and start being statesmen who
2 think only of the next generation”; and

3 Whereas Ben Westlund put people before politics and could not be defined by political party,
4 and in his career was a Republican, an independent and a Democrat; and

5 Whereas Ben Westlund, as a moderate Republican in 2005, bucked partisan divides and
6 cosponsored legislation to give marriage-like rights to same-sex couples; and

7 Whereas Ben Westlund and his friend Senator Alan Bates, D.O., were the chief legislative ad-
8 vocates for health care reforms in 2007 that led to creation of the Oregon Health Authority; and

9 Whereas Ben Westlund cared deeply about Oregon and Oregonians, and championed legislation
10 in 2007 to protect the Metolius River Basin, one of this state’s pristine natural areas; and

11 Whereas Ben Westlund authored consumer protection measures as the chairman of the Senate
12 Committee on Commerce in 2008; and

13 Whereas Ben Westlund was outgoing, kind-hearted and an incorrigible practical joke player, and
14 spared no friends or colleagues from his whimsy; and

15 Whereas Ben Westlund was elected in 2008 as Oregon’s 27th State Treasurer, becoming the only
16 State Treasurer from east of the Cascades in recent memory; and

17 Whereas Ben Westlund, as State Treasurer, gained national attention for his efforts to expand
18 investment transparency and to increase accountability in the Oregon 529 College Savings Program,
19 and was instrumental in securing a \$20 million settlement in 2009 for families who were saving for
20 their children’s futures; and

21 Whereas during Ben Westlund’s time in public service, he earned a reputation as a personable
22 problem solver, a hands-on, collaborative and creative leader who sought always to bring out the
23 best in his staff and those around him; and

24 Whereas Ben Westlund’s work on behalf of all Oregonians was quite outmatched by his devotion
25 to his family, as during his years in the Capitol he called home every night at 8:00 p.m. to wish his
26 children good night; and

27 Whereas Ben Westlund spent his life in public service focusing his efforts on making a better
28 Oregon for his children and all of Oregon’s children; now, therefore,

29 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

30 That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, express our condolences to Ben
31 Westlund’s wife and children, express the sense of loss the Legislative Assembly and the Capitol
32 community feel in the absence of that brightly burning fire—a colleague and a friend who resides
33 here no longer—and express our sincere gratitude to Ben Westlund and honor him for his years of
34 service to the Legislative Assembly, to the State Treasury and to all the residents of Oregon.

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