

Public Testimony in Support of SCR 6  
Memorial to William E. Connor, MD  
February 21, 2013

To Chair Monnes Anderson and members of Senate Health Care and Human Services  
Committee:

I am honored to support SCR6; a memorial to Dr. William E. Connor. Dr. Connor was a pioneer in the fields of lipid, sterol, and nutrition research, and his five decade long career produced countless contributions to both science and medicine. As a long-time Oregon Health and Science University faculty member, he will be remembered by his colleagues as a mentor, friend, educator, and even hero. Credited with linking nutrition and disease long before this connection became scientific fact, Dr. Connor published over 400 papers, inspiring and educating a generation of medical professionals. In addition, he worked with his wife Sonja to develop a diet to lower the amount of cholesterol and fat in the blood and the reduce risk of a heart attack. This led to three best-selling cookbooks resulted from this partnership, making better heart health more accessible to all.

Dr. Connor's contributions went well beyond the fields of science and medicine. He was a passionate advocate for social justice issues. During his time at University of Iowa, he led weekly peace demonstrations against the Vietnam War and once even washed dishes with Martin Luther King, Jr. He was a lifelong volunteer in his community working to end the death penalty, volunteering at free health clinics, and as a champion for nature conservation. His activism lives on in the district I proudly represent. He was involved with the Friends of Marquam Nature Park from its beginning in 1978; he promoted the

development of new trails within the park. His work resulted in the naming of the park's newest trail, Connor's Trail.

Within his community and beyond, Dr. Connor's legacy continues in the countless lives he touched as a physician, scientist, colleague, educator, friend, and activist. His legacy will live on for generations.