



Comments on Senate Concurrent Resolution 11
From Chris Bouneff, Executive Director, NAMI Oregon
April 13, 2015
Senate Committee on Rules

NAMI Oregon wholeheartedly supports Senate Concurrent Resolution 11, which honors longtime NAMI member and volunteer Shirley Kimball of Yamhill County for her many years of advocacy and service on behalf of individuals and families affected by mental illness.

Many of us active in Oregon with the National Alliance on Mental Illness consider Shirley a guiding light — someone who blazed trails at a time when the stigma surrounding mental illness was even more oppressive than it is today. Her leadership with NAMI Yamhill, her direct support for individuals and families struggling with mental illness, and her policy advocacy to improve our state’s community mental health system are legendary within our NAMI family. Truly, without her leadership and tireless activism, NAMI wouldn’t be as widely available in our state and as successful at helping Oregonians as it is today. We have all benefited from Shirley’s willingness to give of her time and talents to NAMI and to those living with mental illness.

We are thankful that her participation and leadership continue to this day with NAMI Yamhill. And we can think of no one more deserving within our organization than Shirley for the recognition that SCR 11 bestows.

We hope you share our appreciation of Shirley by approving SCR 11. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input.