



Testimony in support of SCR 11

by
Jeanne C. Beck

A Resolution in Honor of Shirley Kimball for her Service to the State of Oregon and Commitment to the fight Against Mental Illness

Good afternoon. My name is Jeanne Beck. I am Vice President of the National Alliance for Mental Illness - Yamhill County affiliate, one of 14 NAMI affiliates in the state. We are an active group of volunteers dedicated through education, support, and advocacy to helping individuals living with mental illness. Volunteers for a cause, especially when the cause is the health and welfare of our loved ones, are often committed and tenacious people. However, the object of our admiration in this Senate Concurrent Resolution, Mrs. Shirley Kimball, stands out dramatically among the many advocates for the mentally ill.

For nearly forty years, Shirley Kimball has provided outstanding service to individuals living with mental illness and their families through the Abacus program in Yamhill County, through her work with Yamhill County's Department Health and Human Services, and most notably through her work with NAMI Yamhill County. Shirley has been a tireless volunteer for NAMI, serving as a remarkably sensitive and effective leader of support groups, serving as our legislative liaison, organizing our Lobby Days here in Salem, and serving as our secretary and as chair of our program committee. She is a strong advocate for the needs and rights of individuals with mental health challenges and their families, and she has brought to NAMI Yamhill County a strong and clear vision for the ways we can improve the lives of our loved ones with mental illness. I am here to express my personal gratitude for Mrs. Kimball's dedication and commitment, and to express the support of NAMI Yamhill County for this resolution. We urge its adoption and are deeply grateful for the legislature's recognition of a truly outstanding member of our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our input.