

**Seventy-Eighth Oregon Legislative Assembly - 2015 Regular Session**  
**STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY**  
**Senate Committee On Workforce**

**MEASURE: SCR 10**  
**CARRIER: Sen. Thatcher**

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

---

**Action Date:** 03/11/15

**Action:** Be Adopted.

**Meeting Dates:** 03/02, 03/11

**Vote:**

Yeas: 5 - Dembrow, Gelser, Knopp, Rosenbaum, Thatcher

**Prepared By:** Matthew Germer, Committee Administrator

---

**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

In memoriam, Joan Austin, 1931-2013.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Philanthropic and business accomplishments

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:**

Joan Austin was born September 25, 1931. She grew up in Minnesota and Oregon and rose to become an entrepreneur and philanthropist. Ms. Austin and her husband, Ken, cofounded the Austin Dental Equipment Company, known as A-dec Inc., in 1964, and grew the company into one of the world's largest dental chair and equipment manufacturers in the United States. She also served as President of Austin Industries and Springbrook Properties and opened the Allison Inn in 2009.

Ms. Austin directed her business acumen into public service by serving as an advisor for the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, creating Austin Hall on the campus of Oregon State University, and founding the Austin Family Business and Austin Entrepreneurship programs at Oregon State University. She served as a lifetime trustee of the Oregon State University Foundation, as a trustee of Linfield College, as a board member for the Oregon Health and Science University Foundation and Oregon State University's Thundering Seas Foundation.

Ms. Austin acted as a pioneer for women by serving as the first female chair of the board of directors for Associated Oregon Industries, first woman appointed to the Oregon Economic Development Commission, and first chairwoman for the Oregon State University Foundation. For her efforts, she won numerous awards including: the Orchid Award for Woman Entrepreneur of the Year; the Mary Pearmine Workforce Leadership Award for Individual Achievement; Portland State University's Center for Women, Politics and Policy Women of Distinction Award; the 1992 Oregon Women's Forum Woman Who Made a Difference Award; and the International Women's Forum Women and Corporations that Made a Difference Award. Her philanthropic work in education and health care included offering free dental care services for low-income children, founding the Springbrook Northwest drug and alcohol addiction treatment center, and creating an endowment at the Portland Art Museum for Newberg and St. Paul students.