

**Fiscal:** No Fiscal Impact

**Revenue:** No Revenue Impact

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**Action Date:** 06/03/15

**Action:** Be Adopted.

**Meeting Dates:** 06/03

**Vote:**

Yeas: 9 - Barnhart, Gilliam, Hoyle, Kennemer, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Smith Warner, Wilson

**Prepared By:** Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

In memoriam, Joan Austin, 1931-2013.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Life of Ms. Austin
- 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, in 1964, which became one of the world's largest dental chair and equipment manufacturers in the United States. In addition, she served as President of Austin Industries, Springbrook Properties and opened the Allison Inn in 2009.

Ms. Austin directed her business acumen into public service throughout the state. She established Austin Hall on the Oregon State University (OSU) campus, founded the Austin Family Business and Austin Entrepreneurship programs at OSU and served as a lifetime trustee of the OSU Foundation. Also, she was a trustee of Linfield College, a board member for the OHSU Foundation and OSU 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 and first woman appointed to the Oregon Economic Development Commission.

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.