

Enrolled

House Concurrent Resolution 24

Sponsored by Representatives KOTEK, WILLIAMSON, TAYLOR; Representatives BARKER, BARNHART, BARTON, BOONE, BUCKLEY, DOHERTY, FAGAN, FREDERICK, GALLEGOS, GOMBERG, GORSEK, GREENLICK, HELM, HOLVEY, HOYLE, KENY-GUYER, KOMP, LININGER, LIVELY, MCKEOWN, MCLAIN, NATHANSON, NOSSE, PILUSO, READ, REARDON, SMITH WARNER, VEGA PEDERSON, Senators BATES, BEYER, BURDICK, COURTNEY, DEMBROW, DEVLIN, GELSER, HASS, JOHNSON, MONNES ANDERSON, MONROE, PROZANSKI, RILEY, ROBLAN, ROSENBAUM, SHIELDS, STEINER HAYWARD

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury was born in Walla Walla, Washington, on June 23, 1942, and graduated from Whitman College with a bachelor's degree in music; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury served in the Peace Corps in Iran for two years after graduating from college, and upon her return to the United States taught English as a second language at Grant High School in Portland; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury began her work in politics on the 1968 presidential campaign of Robert F. Kennedy and the 1968 United States Senate campaign of Wayne Morse; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury realized early in her life and political career that women face significant barriers and extraordinary challenges in accessing the people and processes that influence the public and private lives of every woman; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury became active in the movement for women's rights, cofounding the Oregon chapter of the National Organization for Women and the Oregon Women's Political Caucus, and, in 1972, protested the City Club of Portland's policy of excluding female members, which resulted in a change to the club's policy of more than 50 years; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury was first elected to political office in 1976, serving three terms in the Oregon House of Representatives through 1982, where she championed legislation to improve the lives of women in Oregon, including legislation increasing services for victims of domestic and sexual violence, improving credit rights and job flexibility for women and increasing funding and access to high-quality child care for working women and families; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury, as chairperson of the House Committee on Human Services, worked to improve services and opportunities for low-income seniors, persons with disabilities and persons with mental illness and addictions, and to increase access to health care across this state by such means as expanding the role of nurse practitioners; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury was elected to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners in 1984 and served six years through 1990, continuing her commitment to addressing the needs of those who are disadvantaged; and

Whereas as Multnomah County Commissioner, Gretchen Miller Kafoury led the effort to establish the first school-based health center at Roosevelt High School in north Portland, continued to expand high school based clinics throughout Multnomah County, established primary care prevention programs to address substance abuse and teen pregnancy, increased prenatal care for low-income women and established programs to prevent the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury was the catalyst for the development in Multnomah County of a strong system of emergency support services for persons who are homeless, including families, survivors of domestic violence and youths, and worked to reform and expand community corrections and work release programs and establish programs to address gang violence; and

Whereas in 1990, Gretchen Miller Kafoury was elected to the first of two terms on the Portland City Council, where she led efforts to reform and overhaul Portland's homeless and low-income housing programs and established the Housing Investment Fund with a \$30 million General Fund commitment to increase the stock of housing for extremely low-income families; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury established the Portland Housing Center to increase home ownership among minorities and low-income families and Portland Community Reinvestment Initiatives, Inc., to stabilize housing for families who were victims of predatory lending, and initiated a process for developing affordable housing in urban renewal areas; and

Whereas through her perseverance and commitment, Gretchen Miller Kafoury brought leaders of the community together to tackle the intractable problem of siting facilities to serve individuals and families who are homeless and persons with special needs, and championed a two-year planning process that resulted in Portland's adoption of *Strategies for Fair Housing*, a plan for which the City of Portland was recognized in 1995 with a National Planning Achievement Award by the American Planning Association; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury led an extensive two-year community-based process to ensure that housing reforms and policies developed and implemented during her eight years as the commissioner overseeing housing and community development were formally incorporated into the City of Portland's Comprehensive Plan, resulting in the Portland City Council's unanimous adoption of a revised housing policy in 1998; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury, a lifelong supporter of civil rights, including gay rights, sponsored the adoption of the City of Portland's Civil Rights Ordinance in 1991, which banned discrimination based on sexual orientation and source of income by all employers doing business in the City of Portland as well as in housing and public accommodations; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury taught at the Portland State University Mark O. Hatfield School of Government in the College of Urban and Public Affairs from 1999 until her retirement in 2008, teaching courses addressing topics such as poverty and homelessness, public administration and Oregon's future; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury cofounded the National Education for Women's Leadership of Oregon program at Portland State University and became an instrumental figure in saving and restoring the Simon Benson House and creating an archive at the Portland State University library for the papers of female political leaders; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury served as a commissioner on the board of directors of Home Forward, the City of Portland's housing authority, beginning in 2007, and was a constant voice for the residents of Home Forward properties, focusing on the needs of the people served by the organization; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury was a fierce advocate until her death on March 13, 2015, for people who have no voice, and worked for her entire public career to improve access to housing, health care, mental health care and alcohol and drug addiction treatment and prevention and to improve income stabilization programs and job training programs; and

Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury was famously impatient for change to happen and believed government at all levels could better serve Oregonians, and her dedication to good government inspired her to work tirelessly to help people who could not fight for themselves; and

Whereas of all Gretchen Miller Kafoury's numerous achievements and contributions to our community, her most lasting legacy may be the one of mentorship, for as a leader and role model for many men and women looking to enter public service, she ensured that her passion and commitment to helping those with little or no voice will live on through the work and advocacy of others; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:

That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, honor, celebrate and express our appreciation for Gretchen Miller Kafoury and her legacy of outstanding and compassionate

service to this state, her diligent advocacy, her numerous achievements and her contributions to this state through her civil service; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to Gretchen Miller Kafoury's family as an expression of our condolences and deep gratitude for all the sacrifices they have made over her lifetime of public service in sharing her with us all.

Adopted by House May 11, 2015

Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Adopted by Senate June 22, 2015

Peter Courtney, President of Senate