

# 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

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

In memoriam: Gretchen Miller Kafoury, 1942-2015.

## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1  
2 Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury was born in Walla Walla, Washington, on June 23, 1942, and  
3 graduated from Whitman College with a bachelor's degree in music; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 Whereas as Multnomah County Commissioner, Gretchen Miller Kafoury led the effort to estab-  
29 lish the first school-based health center at Roosevelt High School in north Portland, continued to

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 expand high school based clinics throughout Multnomah County, established primary care pre-  
2 vention programs to address substance abuse and teen pregnancy, increased prenatal care for low-  
3 income women and established programs to prevent the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency  
4 Syndrome; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury taught at the Portland State University Mark O. Hatfield  
33 School of Government in the College of Urban and Public Affairs from 1999 until her retirement in  
34 2008, teaching courses addressing topics such as poverty and homelessness, public administration  
35 and Oregon's future; and

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

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

44 Whereas Gretchen Miller Kafoury was a fierce advocate until her death on March 13, 2015, for  
45 people who have no voice, and worked for her entire public career to improve access to housing,

1 health care, mental health care and alcohol and drug addiction treatment and prevention and to  
2 improve income stabilization programs and job training programs; and

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

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

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

12       That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly, honor, celebrate and express  
13 our appreciation for Gretchen Miller Kafoury and her legacy of outstanding and compassionate  
14 service to this state, her diligent advocacy, her numerous achievements and her contributions to this  
15 state through her civil service; and be it further

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

19