

Senate Concurrent Resolution 28

Sponsored by Senator STEINER HAYWARD, Representative GREENLICK

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: Dr. Donald F. Austin.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Dr. Donald F. Austin was born on November 1, 1937, in Forsyth, Montana, to Dorothy
3 and Harold Austin; and

4 Whereas Dr. Austin spent most of his childhood in Sutherlin, Oregon, and in 1955 he graduated
5 from Sutherlin High School, where he was president of his senior class; and

6 Whereas Dr. Austin received his undergraduate degree from the University of Oregon in 1962,
7 his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Oregon Medical School (now Oregon Health and
8 Science University, OHSU) in 1965, a Master of Science in microbiology from OHSU and a Master
9 of Public Health from the University of California (UC), Berkeley; and

10 Whereas Dr. Austin spent three decades in state and federal health agencies conducting
11 disease-related surveillance, analysis, investigations and research; and

12 Whereas Dr. Austin's epidemiological research included the effects of industrial air pollution on
13 lung cancer risk, the exposures responsible for an excess of malignant melanomas in a nuclear en-
14 ergy research facility, the effects of drinking alcohol and smoking on oral cancer and the charac-
15 teristics of an epidemic of uterine cancer in post-menopausal women; and

16 Whereas in 1993, Dr. Austin helped design and teach the epidemiology curriculum for the Mas-
17 ter of Public Health program at OHSU; and

18 Whereas Dr. Austin was an important contributor to the national Surveillance, Epidemiology,
19 and End Results (SEER) Program, and he ran the SEER cancer registry in the San Francisco Bay
20 Area for many years, using population-based data for descriptive analyses of cancer occurrence in
21 the multiracial population of that geographic area, as well as for analytic studies of multiple cancer
22 sites; and

23 Whereas Dr. Austin helped design, operate and teach the use of central cancer registries, in-
24 cluding statewide cancer reporting systems in Oregon, California, Kentucky and Vermont, as well
25 as in Canada; and

26 Whereas Dr. Austin was the founding president of the North American Association of Central
27 Cancer Registries, and he worked to draft federal legislation to establish the National Program of
28 Cancer Registries; and

29 Whereas as an adjunct faculty member of the Epidemiology/Biostatistics program at UC
30 Berkeley, Dr. Austin helped design the first course on the use of epidemiology in the assessment of
31 causation; and

32 Whereas Dr. Austin taught epidemiology courses on causation at OHSU and UC Berkeley for

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 more than 20 years; and

2 Whereas in 2009, Dr. Austin received a Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award from the OHSU
3 School of Medicine and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oregon Public Health Associ-
4 ation; and

5 Whereas Dr. Austin co-authored *Causal Inference in Epidemiology: A Practical Approach* with
6 John Stull, William Lambert and David Buckley; and

7 Whereas Dr. Austin was a founding member of the board of directors of the Tobacco Free Co-
8 alition of Oregon, a statewide advocacy organization, and he served in that position for the last 15
9 years of his life; and

10 Whereas in 2003, Dr. Austin received the Maurine Neuberger Award in recognition of his dedi-
11 cation, support, long-term leadership and significant contributions to tobacco use prevention and
12 education in Oregon; and

13 Whereas Dr. Austin was an avid scuba diver, songwriter, dancer and poet; and

14 Whereas Dr. Austin will be remembered for his intellect, wit and commitment to public health;
15 and

16 Whereas Dr. Austin was a “rock star” public health professor who was a friend and mentor to
17 countless individuals; and

18 Whereas Dr. Austin died peacefully at home, surrounded by family members, on October 21,
19 2018; and

20 Whereas Dr. Austin is survived by his wife, Susan Teller, his sons, Greg Austin, Cary Austin
21 and Jack Teller Austin, his grandsons, Jesse, Daniel and Martin, and his sisters, Marjorie Jauron
22 and Peggy Coffman; and

23 Whereas Dr. Austin has passed away, but he will continue to teach as a donor to the OHSU
24 Body Donation Program; now, therefore,

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

26 That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate the remark-
27 able life and accomplishments of Dr. Donald F. Austin, recognize his contributions to public health
28 all over the world and express our gratitude for his service to the people of this state; and be it
29 further

30 Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Dr. Austin as an
31 expression of our sympathy and condolences.

32