

## Enrolled

# Senate Concurrent Resolution 203

Sponsored by Senators COURTNEY, MONNES ANDERSON, Representative SCHOUTEN; Senators BEYER, BURDICK, DEMBROW, FREDERICK, GELSER, GOLDEN, JOHNSON, MANNING JR, PROZANSKI, ROBLAN, STEINER HAYWARD, TAYLOR, WAGNER, Representatives ALONSO LEON, KENY-GUYER, MARSH, NERON, REARDON, SOLLMAN, WILLIAMS (Pre-session filed.)

Whereas the Oregon Commission for Women presents the Women of Achievement Award to women in Oregon for leading and succeeding in their areas of expertise, promoting the status of women in society, reflecting a commitment to equity and diversity and serving as exemplary role models; and

Whereas when Belinda Carroll came out at age 15, her path took her through houselessness, life on the streets and other challenges en route to becoming one of this state's outstanding leaders; and

Whereas in 2018, Belinda Carroll was awarded a Queer Hero award by the Gay and Lesbian Archives of the Pacific Northwest; and

Whereas Belinda Carroll brings her wit and wisdom to her nationally acclaimed work as a writer, stand-up comedian, actor, media personality and activist; and

Whereas Belinda Carroll's extensive contributions to the local LGBTQ community over many years include her annual performances at Portland Pride, as head organizer of the annual Portland Dyke March, as a guide for Know Your City's Pride Forever walking tour (which highlights sites significant in Portland's LGBTQ history) and as co-founder of the Portland Queer Comedy Festival; and

Whereas the two-fold vision of the Portland Queer Comedy Festival-to highlight queer and allied talent from all over the world while giving back to the queer community through nonprofit initiatives-is illustrative of the high purpose Belinda Carroll brings to her work through shared laughter, awareness raising and common effort; and

Whereas Sharon Gary-Smith is a native Oregonian and a second-generation racial and social justice activist, community leader and agitator; and

Whereas Sharon Gary-Smith is the eldest of four daughters of Bobbi Lou Mosley Gary and Frederick Douglas Gary Jr., both of whom were activists and strong advocates for equitable education, housing and opportunities for all; and

Whereas from her parents, Sharon Gary-Smith learned at an early age to "never forget who you are and whose you are"; and

Whereas Sharon Gary-Smith served for six years as the first national director of self-help programs for the National Black Women's Health Project in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas Sharon Gary-Smith was vice president for government relations and fund development for the Austin Area Urban League in Texas, and she served as a special adviser to then-Governor Ann Richards of Texas; and

Whereas in 2016, Sharon Gary-Smith retired as executive director of MRG Foundation, Oregon's leading social justice funder, which she led for nearly six years; and

Whereas Sharon Gary-Smith's leadership significantly increased MRG's philanthropic presence and visibility locally, regionally and nationally and positioned MRG as a leader on racial and social justice issues among its peers in philanthropy; and

Whereas during Sharon Gary-Smith's tenure, MRG became the first foundation to receive the Portland Human Rights Commission's Outstanding Organization Award and was recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as the Oregon foundation of the year; and

Whereas Sharon Gary-Smith is the proud mother of Mariotta Patrice Gary-Smith, a health equity strategist with Health Share of Oregon; and

Whereas Justice Adrienne Nelson was appointed to the Oregon Supreme Court on January 2, 2018, making her the first African-American to sit on any of this state's appellate courts; and

Whereas Justice Nelson's election to a full six-year term in November 2018 made her the first African-American woman elected to statewide office in Oregon; and

Whereas in 2006, Justice Nelson was appointed as a trial judge on the Multnomah County Circuit Court, making her the second African-American female judge in Oregon; and

Whereas prior to her judicial appointments, Justice Nelson worked as a public defender with Multnomah Defenders, Inc., as an associate with the law firm Bennett, Hartman, Morris and Kaplan, LLP and as a senior attorney for Student Legal and Mediation Services of Portland State University; and

Whereas Justice Nelson earned her J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law and her B.A. summa cum laude in English and criminal justice from the University of Arkansas; and

Whereas Justice Nelson is very active in the legal community and the wider state community, and she is a frequent speaker on topics including diversity, inclusion, equity, leadership and professional development; and

Whereas Justice Nelson sits on the American Bar Association (ABA) Standing Committee on Public Education, is the Oregon delegate to the ABA House of Delegates, chairs Lewis & Clark Law School's Roosevelt Robinson Scholarship committee and is president of the Owen M. Panner American Inn of Court; and

Whereas Justice Nelson sits on the Reed College Board of Trustees, the Self-Enhancement, Inc. board of directors, the Oregon Community Foundation Metropolitan Portland Leadership Council and the Girl Scouts Beyond Bars advisory board; and

Whereas Justice Nelson is a tireless encourager and mentor who helps people succeed by living their best lives, and she has received numerous national and local awards for her community service; and

Whereas Andrea Paluso is co-founder and executive director of Family Forward Oregon and Family Forward Action, organizations founded by Oregon mothers to build economic and political power by organizing to change policies and systems that perpetuate economic insecurity among women and caregivers-and the families who rely upon them; and

Whereas Andrea Paluso has helped to lead campaigns for issues including paid family leave and sick leave, affordable child care, pay equity, minimum wage increases, pregnancy accommodations, workplace discrimination and reproductive health care access; and

Whereas Andrea Paluso has worked in public policy, nonprofit management, public education, community health and international development at organizations including Outside In (Oregon), For Love of Children (District of Columbia), the Community Health and Advisory Network (New York), the Peace Corps in Niger and Plan International; and

Whereas Andrea Paluso has master's degrees in social work and public health from Columbia University; and

Whereas in 2015, Andrea Paluso was recognized by President Barack Obama as a White House Champion of Change for Working Families; and

Whereas Andrea Paluso lives in Portland and is the mother of two children; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eightieth Legislative Assembly, recognize Belinda Carroll, Sharon Gary-Smith, Justice Adrienne Nelson and Andrea Paluso as Oregon Women of Achievement.

Adopted by Senate February 12, 2020

---

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

---

Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Adopted by House February 21, 2020

---

Tina Kotek, Speaker of House