House Concurrent Resolution 17
Sponsored by Representative ALONSO LEON (Presession filed.)

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.

Recognizes and honors Ramon Ramirez for his leadership and service to people of Oregon.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas Ramon Ramirez has spent a lifetime working on behalf of communities of color in the State of Oregon; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez is nationally recognized for his legacy of work built upon justice, community building, engagement, inclusion, diversity and equity in the social justice arena; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez is a native of Los Angeles, California, who saw discrimination, inequality, poverty and farmworker struggles firsthand in his community; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez's career as an activist and labor organizer was ignited when, as a 15-year-old, he heard Cesar Chavez speak at his high school; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez moved to the Willamette Valley as a young man, and he soon saw many of the same problems he had witnessed in California, which led him to help organize farmworkers; and
Whereas in 1977, in response to large immigration raids, Ramon Ramirez played a key role in the formation of the Willamette Valley Immigration Project to defend the human and civil rights of immigrants; and
Whereas in 1985, Ramon Ramirez cofounded Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)-Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United-in Woodburn, Oregon; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez was president of PCUN for many years, leading it well into the 21st century as it grew from a small organization into Oregon's largest farmworker union and one of the most influential Latino organizations in this state; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez cofounded and led Causa, Oregon’s immigrant rights coalition; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez has served on the boards of the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, the Western States Center, Farmworker Justice, the United Farm Workers Foundation, the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation and the Alston/Bannerman Fellowship Program of the Center for Social Inclusion; and
Whereas in 2003, Ramon Ramirez received a prestigious Leadership for a Changing World award and grant from the Ford Foundation; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez has received many other awards and honors, including the Jeannette Rankin Award from Social Justice Fund Northwest and the Gretchen Kafoury Award from Housing Oregon; and
Whereas Ramon Ramirez was the 2014-2015 Elder-in-Residence at the University of Oregon, sharing his knowledge, wisdom and experiences with students and faculty; and

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.

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Whereas Ramon Ramirez believes in building bridges of understanding to bring diverse communities together to share what they have in common and educate each other about their differences; and

Whereas Ramon Ramirez has been a mentor to countless young people, and he will serve as a role model for generations to come; and

Whereas Ramon Ramirez is a champion of giving a voice to the voiceless and having them become change agents in their own community; and

Whereas Ramon Ramirez is a fearless advocate who has devoted his life to fighting for human rights, justice and inclusion for all; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Ramon Ramirez for his remarkable lifetime of work and his contributions to the people of the State of Oregon.