

Additional Testimony on Behalf of SCR 1

This written testimony supplements the oral testimony we provided at the Public Hearing on behalf of SCR1. We are forever grateful to Senator Wagner, Representative Salinas and to this Committee for your consideration and support. Some brief information about Sarah beyond her work on early childhood issues and the PreK for All efforts she engaged on over the past few years.

Sarah was born in Jefferson City, Missouri and raised through middle school in Kansas City, Missouri. It was there she was both exposed to and engaged with us in our work: aging where she helped her Mother establish a care management company and with disAbilities where she often accompanied her Dad with PeopleFirst and efforts to support persons labeled intellectually challenged advocate for themselves. A Gifted and Talented child in public elementary school, she earned a nickname of “scuba” for being so deep and wise beyond her years by teachers and mentors. In middle school she prepared to become a Bat Mitzvah by engaging in social justice campaigns and with humor had her entire class from St. Paul’s Episcopal Day School attend the entire service as a requirement for attending her party. No free lunches allowed. Throughout her life, Sarah was dedicated to family and friends. She cherished each and every one and served as family historian as both her parents gathered both genealogy and tales for her to pass on to the next generations.

The move to Oregon was a challenge, yet her Freshman English paper at Sunset High addressed irony; she found it ironic that she actually loved Oregon. And those years had her win school awards for Theater (acting, stage directing and managing), community service including Holocaust education accompanying the late Alter Weiner and summer theater work at Mittleman Jewish Community Center. After having a lead role in the Holocaust play Number the Stars, she began a lifelong collection of books for all ages addressing the Holocaust. And all throughout school she worked the retail store of the then Retired Persons Pharmacy.

She chose Willamette University and secured a Presidential Scholarship while in Work Study to help pay for schooling her entire four years of undergrad work. Again she earned awards and studied at National University of Galway before completing her major of Religious Studies and delivering the class service before commencement in both Hebrew and English. The Commencement speaker that year was LaVar Burton. Sarah met him with us at dinner that evening where she noted Reading Rainbow inspired her to apply for the Masters of Arts in Teaching at Willamette. The program was an intensive 9 months and she student taught in Dallas Oregon. Her reviews were all stellar. She chose to take a job in Seattle teaching and writing curriculum for Bright Horizons. But eager to get closer to family and friends, she took a job with KinderKare also both teaching and writing curriculum.

Somehow she started to explore interest in public policy and systems change so took a job with Pyramid Communications and later with Social Venture Partners Portland. The PreK for All efforts and establishing community partnerships all played to her skills and passion. Her abilities to multitask, connect people and places, think strategically as well as tactically were amazing.

But most of all, Sarah was as dedicated and loyal a family member and friend as one could ever imagine.

We mourn her loss knowing how much more she would have accomplished in life for so many. But we celebrate her life for how many she touched and how she made this world a better place.

