



## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Senator Deb Patterson, Chair, Senate Health Care Committee  
Senator Tim Knopp, Vice-Chair, Senate Health Care Committee  
Members of the Senate Health Care Committee

From: Bryan Boehringer, Executive Vice President, Oregon Medical Association

Date: February 24, 2021

Re: Support for SCR 3 – In memoriam: Representative Merwyn Ronald “Mitch” Greenlick

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The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) would like to support the committee’s efforts in recognizing the life and contributions of Representative Merwyn Ronald “Mitch” Greenlick. Chair Greenlick's service in the legislature and on the House Health Care Committee was dedicated to improving the health of all Oregonians. He was a champion for public health and a fierce advocate for health care access for all.

Chair Greenlick was a tireless advocate for Oregon’s underserved. His work on the Healthy Oregon Act started with the goal of answering the difficult question... how do we provide access to quality healthcare for all Oregonians while attempting to contain costs? This work paved the way for the Oregon Health Fund Board, the Oregon Health Authority, and Oregon’s innovative Coordinated Care Organization model. Not satisfied, Chair Greenlick also championed the HOPE amendment that would have required the Oregon Constitution to recognize that access to effective and affordable health care is a fundamental right.

While his advocacy for those without was paramount to his service in the legislature, his biggest contributions were in the area of public health. Chair Greenlick’s interest in helping to find areas of collaboration between Oregon Health & Science University and Portland State University led to the creation of the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health jointly located at both institutions. Chair Greenlick also led the effort to start the process of modernizing Oregon’s public health system by pushing for legislation and funding in 2015. As we are still very much in the middle of a public health crisis, the Chair’s forethought to build and invest in our public health structure seems particularly prescient.

Finally, there is no greater legacy that someone can leave than the people that they impacted along the way. Chair Greenlick’s legislative staff members are an excellent example of this. You can find his team members serving and working in every aspect of the health care world. All of them, trying to make a better system for all Oregonians. It’s also worth mentioning that everything that Chair Greenlick accomplished was in part due to his number one staff person and partner, Harriet Greenlick.

Chair Greenlick published a book titled “Capitol Letters” in 2016 about his time working in the Capitol. In the book, he said, “Working in the legislature is an exhilarating experience. I hope what comes through in reading the messages is that being a legislator is an honor, a responsibility, and a joy.” Chair Greenlick loved his service in this building, and he loved working on health care policy.

The OMA would like to express our sincerest sympathy to Harriet and the entire Greenlick family and we encourage you to adopt SCR 3.

**The Oregon Medical Association serves and supports over 8,000 physicians, physician assistants and student members in their efforts to improve the health of all Oregonians. Additional information can be found at [www.theOMA.org](http://www.theOMA.org).**