

Enrolled
Senate Concurrent Resolution 5

Sponsored by Senator GOLDEN, Representative MARSH; Representative MORGAN (Pre-session filed.)

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley was born on October 24, 1936, in Graham, North Carolina; and
Whereas in 1958, Mary Curtis Gramley graduated from Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and began her career as an elementary school teacher; and

Whereas when her youngest child started school, Mary Curtis Gramley continued her education, earning an M.S. in counseling psychology in 1980 and a Ph.D. in early childhood development in 1988 at the University of Oregon; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley spent a lifetime working with determination and compassion to support families by creating healthy and nurturing environments for their children; and

Whereas from 1992 to 1999, Mary Curtis Gramley was a professor and associate dean at Southern Oregon University, where she enhanced the early childhood education program and helped to create and develop the Master of Arts in Teaching program; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley was executive director of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in Jackson County, where she was a tireless advocate for children and families in the legal system and the child welfare system; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley was the founder and executive director of the Family Nurturing Center, which began in 2004 by providing services to two families and now supports more than 2,000 families in southern Oregon through an array of different programs; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley cofounded the Oasis Center of the Rogue Valley, a family-centered medical clinic addressing the needs of families affected by substance use disorders; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley belonged to many professional organizations, served on numerous social services boards and commissions and wrote articles for publication focusing on children and families; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley had a hunger for helping people in need, but she had a special and rare feeling for the magic of childhood, and she was fiercely committed to making the world better and safer for all children; and

Whereas to friends, family, colleagues and the thousands of children and families she fought for, Mary Curtis Gramley was a beacon of light in a world that is often full of darkness; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley's enthusiasm and commitment were infectious, and she inspired and mentored countless others; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley understood that young children at risk are future citizens of our community, and their capability to become positive members of the community depends on our investment in them, individually and collectively; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley wrote that "each child's well-being deserves respect top to bottom"; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley passed away on May 17, 2021; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley was survived by her husband, Dale, their five children, Jane, Dale, Walter, Andrew and Joseph, seven grandchildren and her sister, Jane; and

Whereas Mary Curtis Gramley will be forever remembered as a dedicated and tireless advocate for children and families whose career touched countless lives and made her community a better place; now, therefore,

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

That we, the members of the Eighty-second Legislative Assembly, honor and celebrate the remarkable life and career of Mary Curtis Gramley, and we express our gratitude for her service to the people of the State of Oregon; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution shall be presented to the family of Mary Curtis Gramley as an expression of our admiration and profound gratitude.

Adopted by Senate March 2, 2023

Lori L. Brocker, Secretary of Senate

Rob Wagner, President of Senate

Adopted by House April 14, 2023

Dan Rayfield, Speaker of House