

3/3/2025

House Committee on Rules

**Re: Support for HCR 17 - Recognizing and honoring Cambodian Americans in Oregon and the United States and all those lost in the Cambodian Genocide**

To Chair Bowman, Co-Chairs Drazen, Pham and members of the Housing Committee on Rules –

Thank you for your time and consideration in supporting HCR 17 which would recognize the enormous contributions, strength and determination of the Cambodian American community in Oregon.

I write to you as a first-generation Cambodian American born and raised in the Portland metro area. Like many first generations born to families of immigrants and refugees the concept of *built from the ground up*; holds strong as many in our community rebuilt their lives from nothing to very little outside of the support structures held together by the shared traumatic experiences of escaping a war-torn home country and those wanting to help. Just like any time in our country's history of dire circumstances, communities across Oregon from rural parts of Springfield and Sweet Home to the urban areas of Portland came together to offer their support. My family was a part of the first wave of refugees to be sponsored by the Lutheran congregation in the Southern Willamette Valley in the early 1980's finding housing, jobs, language proficiency courses and any other resources to adjust to their new lives.

This public service and community support has inspired so many in the Cambodian American community to also give back in bountiful ways. Lending our support to others in need. It's what led me personally to a 15+ year career in local government motivated by this commitment to give back and support those most in need.

My story is like so many in our community, the sacrifices our families have made, the horrors they've experienced yet the will power to move forward is inspiring to anyone. HCR 17 offers an affirmation of the incredible culture, harrowing history and incredible determination of Cambodian Americans in Oregon. Please consider moving HCR 17 forward. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindly,  
Victor Sin  
Beaverton, Oregon