

SCR 25 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/5

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure recognizes and honors Ruth McEwen for her outstanding service to the people of the State of Oregon.

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes, 29; Excused, 1

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Ruth McEwen was a trailblazing advocate who used her lived experience, as a person with a physical disability, to help dismantle barriers for older adults and people with disabilities in Oregon. She had a distinguished career in special education, counseling, and program oversight, and her work spanned four decades of advocacy. Her tireless commitment to systemic change and equity for older adults and people with disabilities, helped change the landscape of Oregon's system of long-term care.

Ruth McEwen was instrumental in Oregon's first-in-the-nation move from institutional care for seniors and people with disabilities to community-based services. Her work and voice, on behalf of seniors and people with disabilities in Fairview, Oregon, contributed to the decision to move them to community-based care. She served in numerous leadership positions on the Governors' Commission on Senior Services, the Oregon Disabilities Commission, the Home Care Commission, the Senior Advisory Council, and Disability Advisory Council for NorthWest Senior and Disability Services, and a large number of workgroups and committees with the Department of Human Services. She was a familiar presence in the Oregon State Capitol, bringing her expertise and advocacy to policy and budget discussions. Her advocacy work was celebrated by countless awards and recognitions.

Ruth McEwen was an indispensable ally to the communities for whom she advocated, but to her colleagues at NorthWest Senior and Disability Services, she was family. Ruth McEwen passed away on December 25, 2024, and will be greatly missed.