

## HCR 8 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

### Senate Committee On Rules

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**Prepared By:** Josh Nasbe, Counsel

**Meeting Dates:** 5/6

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#### **WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:**

Honors and celebrates the life of Mary Katherine “Kappy” Eaton.

#### **ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

#### **EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:**

No amendment.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

After a life dedicated to passionately serving as a citizen advocate for her community, state, and country, Mary Katherine “Kappy” Eaton died at home on August 7, 2018.

Kappy Eaton was born on March 9, 1924, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, to John and Mary Girton. From the early age of 12, Kappy showed an active interest in politics, handing out buttons and posters for the Minnesota gubernatorial campaign. On October 18, 1947, she married Burt Eaton and they shared a remarkable 64 years together until Burt’s death in 2011. She is survived by her daughter Marilee, sons John and David, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Kappy worked as a newspaper reporter in both California and Minnesota and attended the William Mitchell College of Law before she and Burt moved to Eugene in 1951. During her time in Oregon, Kappy became an integral part of both her local community and the state legislature. She was a legendary presence at the Capitol and was widely respected for her experience and knowledge. There was rarely a day in the last half century where she didn’t make the drive from Eugene to Salem to testify and meet with legislators on behalf of causes she believed in. She also made history by becoming the first Oregonian to receive the Medallion Award from the National Association of Secretaries of State. Even as she received numerous awards, Kappy still approached her work with humility and grace.

Her impact was not isolated to Oregon. She went to Eastern Europe three times on behalf of the United States Department of State, serving as an elections observer and working to educate voters in the region’s emerging democracies. Her dedication to improving the lives of women locally and throughout the world was punctuated when she served as president of the Oregon Women’s Rights Coalition and led workshops at the United Nations World Conferences on Women in Kenya and China. She also coordinated the American Association of University Women’s national campaign for the Equal Rights Amendment, leading workshops and lobbying efforts in more than 30 states. In addition to her inspiring public service, she was a dedicated fan of the University of Oregon, where she earned her master’s degrees and worked as a professor and research librarian. She will forever be remembered as a tireless volunteer and citizen advocate whose inspirational public service touched countless lives and left an indelible imprint on the University of Oregon, the City of Eugene, Lane County, and the State of Oregon.

House Concurrent Resolution 8 honors and celebrates the life of Mary Katherine "Kappy" Eaton.