

House Concurrent Resolution 17

Sponsored by Representative ALONSO LEON (Presession filed.)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Recognizes and honors Ramon Ramirez for his leadership and service to people of Oregon.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 Whereas Ramon Ramirez has spent a lifetime working on behalf of communities of color in the
3 State of Oregon; and

4 Whereas Ramon Ramirez is nationally recognized for his legacy of work built upon justice,
5 community building, engagement, inclusion, diversity and equity in the social justice arena; and

6 Whereas Ramon Ramirez is a native of Los Angeles, California, who saw discrimination, ineq-
7 uity, poverty and farmworker struggles firsthand in his community; and

8 Whereas Ramon Ramirez's career as an activist and labor organizer was ignited when, as a
9 15-year-old, he heard Cesar Chavez speak at his high school; and

10 Whereas Ramon Ramirez moved to the Willamette Valley as a young man, and he soon saw
11 many of the same problems he had witnessed in California, which led him to help organize
12 farmworkers; and

13 Whereas in 1977, in response to large immigration raids, Ramon Ramirez played a key role in
14 the formation of the Willamette Valley Immigration Project to defend the human and civil rights of
15 immigrants; and

16 Whereas in 1985, Ramon Ramirez cofounded Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste
17 (PCUN)-Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United-in Woodburn, Oregon; and

18 Whereas Ramon Ramirez was president of PCUN for many years, leading it well into the 21st
19 century as it grew from a small organization into Oregon's largest farmworker union and one of the
20 most influential Latino organizations in this state; and

21 Whereas Ramon Ramirez cofounded and led Causa, Oregon's immigrant rights coalition; and

22 Whereas Ramon Ramirez has served on the boards of the Coalition for Comprehensive Immi-
23 gration Reform, the Western States Center, Farmworker Justice, the United Farm Workers Foun-
24 dation, the Farmworker Housing Development Corporation and the Alston/Bannerman Fellowship
25 Program of the Center for Social Inclusion; and

26 Whereas in 2003, Ramon Ramirez received a prestigious Leadership for a Changing World award
27 and grant from the Ford Foundation; and

28 Whereas Ramon Ramirez has received many other awards and honors, including the Jeannette
29 Rankin Award from Social Justice Fund Northwest and the Gretchen Kafoury Award from Housing
30 Oregon; and

31 Whereas Ramon Ramirez was the 2014-2015 Elder-in-Residence at the University of Oregon,
32 sharing his knowledge, wisdom and experiences with students and faculty; and

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

HCR 17

1 Whereas Ramon Ramirez believes in building bridges of understanding to bring diverse commu-
2 nities together to share what they have in common and educate each other about their differences;
3 and

4 Whereas Ramon Ramirez has been a mentor to countless young people, and he will serve as a
5 role model for generations to come; and

6 Whereas Ramon Ramirez is a champion of giving a voice to the voiceless and having them be-
7 come change agents in their own community; and

8 Whereas Ramon Ramirez is a fearless advocate who has devoted his life to fighting for human
9 rights, justice and inclusion for all; now, therefore,

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

11 That we, the members of the Eighty-first Legislative Assembly, recognize and honor Ramon
12 Ramirez for his remarkable lifetime of work and his contributions to the people of the State of
13 Oregon.

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