

April 15, 2021
Senate Committee on Rules
900 Court St. NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: Senate Concurrent Resolution 10, honoring Senator Jackie Winters

Chair Wagner, Vice Chair Girod and members of the Senate Committee on Rules,

I am the president and CEO of Salem Health, a local hospital and health system in the mid-Willamette valley. I am writing to convey my wholehearted support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 10 — a measure honoring the life and memory of State Senator Jackie Winters.

Senator Winters exemplified the true example of a public servant. She served her state for over half a century, and stood as champion for her community in whatever capacity the moment demanded. Jackie was a pioneer and her life, by definition, historic: the first African-American Republican elected to the Oregon Legislature, and the first African-American caucus leader. Her leadership qualities endure as a model and inspiration: tenacious, collaborative and driven to better the lives of those she served. Senator Winters was uniquely capable of bridging divides to see what was possible and bring it to fruition.

At Salem Health, we are indebted to Senator Winters for the cogent leadership she brought to a wide-range of health care issues. For years, she co-chaired the Ways & Means Human Services subcommittee. She championed diabetes education programs, culturally competent care and secured Medicaid funding for Oregon's vulnerable. Senator Winters' lifelong leadership around criminal justice issues beckoned our community toward fairness and equality — driving towards greater health and well-being.

Senator Winters was a leader in our community, and we are better for her life and service. But beyond a great leader, she was a great friend to many, and her smile, laugh and bright eyes are truly missed. Thank you for your consideration, and I encourage you to take this opportunity to honor one of Oregon's great leaders.

Sincerely,

Cheryl N. Wolfe
President and CEO
Salem Health