

February 15, 2021

Oregon State Legislature
House Committee on Health Care
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

**Re: Senate Concurrent Resolution 3: In memoriam: Representative Merwyn Ronald
"Mitch" Greenlick, 1935-2020.**

Chair Patterson and members of the Senate Committee on Health Care:

The Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems (OAHHS) wholeheartedly supports SCR 3, paying tribute to the great Representative Mitch Greenlick, a passionate champion for access to quality, affordable health care.

Since his arriving to this state in the 1960's, Representative Greenlick has impacted the foundation of the health care system in Oregon. From his service as Vice President of Research at Kaiser to his time at the Department of Public Health and Preventive Care at OHSU, Representative Greenlick already had his fingerprints on health care policy and practice for decades prior to arriving in the legislature in 2003.

As a member of the legislature, Representative Greenlick used his vast knowledge of health policy to improve access to care. He played a key role in public health modernization, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, the creation of Coordinated Care Organizations, and the establishment of the Oregon Health Authority, all of which have helped extend coverage via the Oregon Health Plan to nearly one million Oregonians.

Representative Greenlick's commitment to public health was evident outside of his professional roles and duties. Representative Greenlick served on countless healthcare boards and commissions at the state and national level to address better policy and practices in health care, including leadership roles at the American Public Health Association, the World Health Organization, and the American Heart Association in relation to epidemiology.

While honoring Representative Greenlick's contributions, we would be remiss to not mention his partnership with his wife, Harriett Greenlick. Together, Representative Greenlick and Mrs. Greenlick worked tirelessly to serve the constituents of House District 33 and advance just and compassionate legislation for nearly twenty years. We thank Mrs. Greenlick for her years of service to the State of Oregon and her impact in making Oregon a better place.

In 2019, OAHHS nominated him for a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Oregon Public Health Association. In our nomination statement, we wrote "Mitch Greenlick's contribution to public health policy may never fully be realized in Oregon. His influence and investments have been wide and profound. Mitch has committed himself to these efforts, because he knows firsthand that a strong public health system and access to care is essential to everyone reaching their lifelong potential."

We are saddened by the passing of our friend. Representative Greenlick was a public servant in the best sense, someone who used his tremendous intellect, commitment, and compassion to improve the lives of his fellow Oregonians. Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 is a crucial memorial to honor a statesman who put his heart into making Oregon a better, and healthier, place.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Meuwissen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Travis Meuwissen
Director of Advocacy