

SCR 5 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 3/30

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Memorializes Mary Curtis Gramley (1936-2021).

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

REVENUE: No revenue impact

Senate Vote: Ayes, 27; Excused, 3--Robinson, Steiner, Taylor

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Mary Curtis Gramley was born on October 24, 1936, in Graham, North Carolina. In 1958, she graduated from Salem College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and began her career as an elementary school teacher. When her youngest child started school, Mary Curtis Gramley continued her education, earning an M.S. in counseling psychology in 1980 and a Ph.D. in early childhood development in 1988 at the University of Oregon. She spent a lifetime working with determination and compassion to support families by creating healthy and nurturing environments for their children.

From 1992 to 1999, Mary Curtis Gramley was a professor and associate dean at Southern Oregon University, where she enhanced the early childhood education program and helped to create and develop the Master of Arts in Teaching program. She was executive director of the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in Jackson County, where she was a tireless advocate for children and families in the legal system and the child welfare system. She was the founder and executive director of the Family Nurturing Center, which began in 2004 by providing services to two families and now supports more than 2,000 families in southern Oregon through an array of different programs. She cofounded the Oasis Center of the Rogue Valley, a family-centered medical clinic addressing the needs of families affected by substance use disorders.

Mary Curtis Gramley belonged to many professional organizations, served on numerous social services boards and commissions, and wrote articles for publication focusing on children and families. She had a hunger for helping people in need, but she had a special and rare feeling for the magic of childhood, and she was fiercely committed to making the world better and safer for all children.

To friends, family, colleagues, and the thousands of children and families she fought for, Mary Curtis Gramley was a beacon of light in a world that is often full of darkness. Her enthusiasm and commitment were infectious, and she inspired and mentored countless others.

Mary Curtis Gramley understood that young children at risk are future citizens of our community, and their capability to become positive members of the community depends on our investment in them, individually and collectively. She wrote that “each child’s well-being deserves respect top to bottom.”

Mary Curtis Gramley passed away on May 17, 2021. She was survived by her husband, Dale, their five children, Jane, Dale, Walter, Andrew, and Joseph, seven grandchildren and her sister, Jane.

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Senate Concurrent Resolution 5 A celebrates the life and career of Mary Curtis Gramley.

PRELIMINARY