

March 4, 2024

House Committee on Rules

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Helfrich and Kropf, and members of the committee, I was unfortunately unable to provide my testimony live in support of SCR 203. I am submitting my remarks below, and thank you for your consideration of the measure.

---

Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Helfrich and Kropf, and members of the committee, for the record, I am Nathan Soltz. I am Senator Frederick's chief of staff, but I am taking off that hat and clocking out for lunch since I am testifying before you in my role as Secretary of the Democratic Party of Oregon. As she was for so many organizations, Alice was our parliamentarian, but she was also so much more than that. SCR 203 recounts some of her incredible work for our state and the Democratic Party of Oregon has also adopted its own resolution honoring her, which I have submitted for the record as well. These resolutions speak at length to Alice's limitless knowledge of parliamentary procedure and her willingness to educate others about it, in addition to her engagement beyond that. And while her work needs to be recognized, as many of our state's civic and community organizations would literally not have functioned without her, it was also her special individual presence that made her loss so challenging.

Every quarter, the Democratic Party of Oregon has a State Central Committee meeting, and the locations of these meetings are all over the state. Our next one is in Seaside and we've been to Hood River, Roseburg, John Day, Prineville, Pendleton, and on and on. At each of them, Alice was there to guide us. But more than that, she was there to reassure us. And as you all know, no elected body would function without its staff. And to our state party staff, Alice was a comfort. As an example, I distinctly remember how one of our staff was not feeling well after one of our meetings in Eastern Oregon and Alice drove them all the way back to Portland. She was also a mentor to our staff, especially the women on our team, as Alice was not only a stalwart advocate for women's rights, but was herself an example of strength.

Alice had been encouraging me for years to take the parliamentarian exam to myself become a registered parliamentarian. It was always nerve-wracking to chair a meeting or serve as a parliamentarian while a wizard like Alice observed. But there was also no greater endorsement than getting an email from her afterwards with words of support and compliments.

In mid-August, the Democratic Party of Oregon had its platform convention. Hundreds of very opinionated Democrats from across our state descended on Western Oregon University for the weekend. And not to downplay the leadership of our own Senator Dembrow who chaired the convention, but I am certain that he would agree that we could not have gotten through the weekend without Alice's guidance and support. Less than two weeks later, Alice passed peacefully. I'm just glad that I was able to help her carry her surprisingly dense little black roller bag full of parliamentary magic up and down the stairs to the stage.

Thank you for your consideration of SCR 203 and honoring a truly special Oregonian, whose life has benefited our state and country more than can be quantified. Thank you.