

HCR 36 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Rules

Prepared By: Melissa Leoni, LPRO Analyst

Meeting Dates: 5/14

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure honors and celebrates the life and achievements of Christine Chin Ryan, and expresses gratitude for her lifelong service to democracy and to the people of the State of Oregon.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Christine Chin Ryan was born in Trinidad and Tobago to Alexander and Ann Chin, the fifth of their six children. The Chin family had immigrated to Trinidad and Tobago from China and, in 1966, they were able to move to New York City when the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 increased the number of immigrants allowed into the United States from certain countries, including those in the Caribbean region.

Christine Chin Ryan was one of the first generation of her family born outside China, and she became a naturalized citizen of the United States. She grew up in Flushing, Queens, New York City, but she moved to Oregon in the late 1970s and called it home for the rest of her life.

In 1988, Christine Chin Ryan founded Synergy Consulting, Inc., in Portland, Oregon, and she served as its president for nearly four decades. In 1996, Synergy received the Administrator's Award for Excellence from the United States Small Business Administration.

Christine Chin Ryan cofounded and served as executive director of the Asian Pacific Islander Community Coalition of Oregon (APICCO), which gives Asian Pacific Islander students the opportunity to learn about and work in political advocacy. She empowered 25 youth leaders to participate in APICCO's internship development program, some of whom went on to serve their communities in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon.

Christine Chin Ryan served as chair of the Portland Police Bureau's Asian Pacific Islander American Advisory Council. She served as vice-chair of the board of directors of the Philippine American Chamber of Commerce of Oregon. She was the first Chinese American and the second Asian Pacific Islander to serve on the National Organization for Women (NOW) National Board of Directors, as well as the first woman of color and Asian Pacific Islander to serve as president of Oregon's chapter of NOW.

Christine Chin Ryan was a guest speaker for facilitated events on anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents following the Atlanta, Georgia, spa murders on March 16, 2021.

In 2017, Christine Chin Ryan was presented with the Asian Reporter Foundation's prestigious Most Honored Elder Award. She was awarded the 2024 Chinese American Citizens Alliance Portland Lodge Citizen's Award.

Christine Chin Ryan was unwavering in using her voice to support small businesses, women, racial justice, and anti-hate actions. For more than three decades, she was a relentless and passionate advocate for legislative action to positively impact communities of color in Oregon and around the nation.

Christine Chin Ryan passed away on March 30, 2025, and the void left by her passing is immeasurable. She will continue to inspire generations to come with her legacy of advocacy and community investment, and will be forever remembered as a dedicated mentor, activist, and leader who touched countless lives.