

Submitter: Rithy Bein

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HCR17

Dear Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazan, Vice Chair Pham, and members of the Committee,

My name is Rithy Bein and I am writing to you today with the Cambodian American Community of Oregon (CACO). We are seeking your support of HCR 17 - recognition of the Cambodian American community's contributions to Oregon and the United States. I wanted to leave your office a message that we urge the support of HCR 17.

We thank Representative Thuy Tran for her office's kind sponsorship of the concurrent resolution that recognizes the Cambodian American community, the loss that the Cambodian community had after the Khmer Rouge took power in April 1975 following the United States withdrawal and the Killing Fields after that time.

We also honor and recognize the strength and resiliency of the Cambodian American community after which came to the United States in part as refugees and immigrants. Cambodian Americans are a critical part of our local community.

The Cambodian American community continues to grow 50 years on. We continue to serve and build the community, the United States in armed service, as small business owners, as students, public servants, engineers, lawyers, medical professionals, teachers, non profit leaders, working individuals, and all the vibrant parts of what makes Oregon and America what it is today. This resolution recognizes the last 50 years since 1975, but also looks to the future for all generations to come.

Our family arrived in Oregon in 1979 and we all continue to thrive and live in the metro Portland area. This state has been our home for the last 40+ years and we have woven our identities as Cambodian Americans and as productive citizens in our communities.

We thank you for your leadership and your public service to all of Oregon.

Sincerely,