

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

My name is Lucy, and I am writing to you today as a member of the Cambodian Student Association at Oregon State University (OSU). I urge your support for HCR 17, which recognizes and honors Cambodian Americans in Oregon and the United States, as well as those lost in the Cambodian Genocide.

The Cambodian Student Association at OSU serves as a space to organize students, celebrate our heritage, and uplift Cambodian students in higher education. Our mission is not only to create a supportive community for Cambodian students but also to educate and engage with the broader university population about Cambodian history, culture, and the resilience of our people. Many of us are first-generation students, navigating the challenges of higher education while carrying the weight of our families' histories—stories of survival, displacement, and rebuilding.

The Cambodian Genocide left deep scars on our community, yet it also forged a spirit of perseverance. Cambodian Americans have made immense contributions to Oregon and the United States, excelling in education, business, healthcare, public service, and countless other fields. Despite historical hardships, our presence in higher education is a testament to the strength of our families and the importance of representation in academia. Supporting this resolution is not just about acknowledging the past; it is about ensuring that future generations of Cambodian Americans have a place to thrive and be recognized.

We are grateful to Representative Thuy Tran and all those supporting this resolution. By passing HCR 17, Oregon would reaffirm its commitment to honoring Cambodian Americans, recognizing our contributions, and ensuring that the lessons of the past are never forgotten.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to serving all communities in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Lucy S

Cambodian Student Association, Oregon State University