

Submitter: Sokunnarith Saing
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Rules
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HCR17

March 4th, 2025

House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Subject: Support for HCR 17 – Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of Cambodian Immigration to Oregon

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 17, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of Cambodian immigration to Oregon. As a Cambodian refugee who arrived in Oregon in 1975, sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church in Sweet Home, I have personally experienced the generosity and support of Oregonians in rebuilding my life after escaping the Khmer Rouge regime.

When I arrived in Oregon, I faced immense challenges—learning a new language, adapting to a new culture, and overcoming the trauma of war. However, thanks to the kindness of my sponsors and the welcoming spirit of my new community, I was able to find stability, work toward a better future, and contribute to this state that I now proudly call home.

HCR 17 is a meaningful resolution that not only acknowledges the resilience of Cambodian refugees but also honors the Oregon communities that opened their hearts and homes to us. It is a recognition of our struggles, our achievements, and our ongoing contributions to the social, cultural, and economic fabric of this great state.

By passing this resolution, Oregon will affirm its commitment to refugee communities and ensure that the history of Cambodian immigrants is remembered for generations to come. I urge you to support HCR 17 and honor the legacy of all who played a role in resettling Cambodian refugees in Oregon.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sokunnarith Saing

Cambodian Refugee, 1975

Sponsored by Bethel Lutheran Church, Sweet Home, Oregon