



March 10, 2025

Support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 25

Dear Chair Jama and the Senate Committee on Rules:

I am writing on behalf of Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services to express my support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 25, which posthumously honors Ruth McEwen for her inspiring legacy of activism, friendship and lasting change. Thank you to Senator Patterson and Representatives Andersen, Evans, Gomberg and Mannix in sponsoring this resolution.

Ruth was unwavering in her advocacy for older adults and people with disabilities. Her advocacy helped close Fairview and move and integrate people into the community. While working for a local nonprofit organization, I had the incredible opportunity to help former Fairview residents buy their own homes and further their journey to autonomy and self-realization. I later became a colleague of Ruth through my work with senior advisory councils and eventually through our membership in O4AD. Her advocacy not only changed the lives of individuals, helped to heal and make families whole, launched organizations and improved entire systems of services; she has helped educate and inspire at least two generations of public servants and advocates.

I often sat with Ruth at the O4AD quarterly business meetings in Salem because I wanted to learn from her. She had unwavering strength and calm through upheavals in budget, leadership, and policy. She was steadfast and fair in her demands. She always reminded us to lift the needs and voices of people with disabilities and older adults and to center their lives in our decision making.

My condolences to the staff at NorthWest Senior and Disability Services and to the many other people who were fortunate enough to call her friend and ally. I look forward to working together to honor her legacy with continued advocacy on behalf of older adults and people with disabilities.

May she rest in peace,

Rebecca Miller, MPA
Area Agency on Aging Director
Washington County Disability, Aging and Veteran Services