



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Department of Human Services
Aging and People with Disabilities
500 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

March 12, 2025



To: Senate Rules Committee

Attn: Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Members of the
Committee

Re: SCR 25

The Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Home Care Commission support the passage of SCR 25 honoring the work and life of Ruth McEwen. Ruth was a steadfast and passionate advocate for those with disabilities. She dedicated her professional and personal life to advocate for change, push for innovation, and remove barriers for people with disabilities. She had a long-standing and influential presence at the State Capitol and SCR 25 is a beautiful and fitting way to honor Ruth McEwen.

Through her leadership and advocacy, Ruth McEwen left a lasting mark on how the Oregon Department of Human Services serve people with disabilities and older adults. With her expertise and lived-experience, Ruth helped shape home and community-based services in Oregon, helped the department apply for and receive the first

“Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe”

comprehensive 1915(k) Medicaid state plan in the nation, was instrumental in the creation of Disability Services Advisory Committees and taught the importance of person-centered services and supports. She also served on the Governor's Commission on Senior Services, the Oregon Disabilities Commission and local advisory groups. Aging and People with Disabilities (APD) has named a life-time achievement award after Ruth McEwen for her outstanding and life- long advocacy.

Ruth McEwen was the Chair of the Oregon Home Care Commission at the time of her passing and led with confidence, compassion, and conviction. The Oregon Department of Human Services and the Oregon Home Care Commission held Ruth McEwen in high esteem. We will forever be thankful for her leadership and contributions and will miss working with her.

Sincerely,

Nakeshia Knight-Coyle, Director of the Office of Aging and People with Disabilities, Oregon Department of Human Services

Jenny Cokeley, Executive Director of the Oregon Home Care Commission