



OREGON ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY CLERKS

oacclerks.org

Contact: Tess Milio

OACC Lobbyist

tess@miliocapitolconsulting.com

626-484-8387

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OREGON COUNTY CLERKS CELEBRATE PETER COURTNEY AND URGE SUPPORT OF SCR 10

Dear Chair Jama, Vice-Chair Bonham, and Senators Golden, Manning and Thatcher:

The Oregon Association of County Clerks (OACC) would like to express our deepest gratitude for former Oregon Senator Peter Courtney.

Senator Courtney was extremely involved in his community, serving as a public servant for decades and encouraging others to serve the public in office as well. He was passionate and compassionate, caring deeply for those in need, working to ease suffering and improve their lives.

Senator Courtney took action when he learned from his County Clerk that adopting a uniform Oregon law to require that only a short form death certificate could be filed in the Clerk's Office land records would cause pain and inconvenience to hundreds of families in being denied having their traditional long forms listing cause of death recorded. He stepped in to make sure the uniform law would not go into effect until funeral homes and hospices could re-tool and ensure that families were provided short forms for filing in the Clerk's office.

As a testament to his vision, in 1981, Former Senator Peter Courtney sponsored the first vote by mail bill in Oregon. It passed, allowing vote by mail in local elections. During his time in office, Sen. Courtney worked diligently and contributed greatly to issues not limited to health care, education, safety, general governance.

Senator Courtney's dedication to making government as responsive as possible and lifting the lives of all people, shows us the path to help our better angels prevail and instills hope for our society to thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in,

Bill Burgess