

March 25, 2025
Testimony in Support of HCR 31

Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazen, Chief Sponsor Valderrama, and members of the committee,

My name is Emily McLain and I had the honor of meeting and knowing Ms. Lyllye Reynolds-Parker when I was a student at the University of Oregon. HCR 31 is a beautiful tribute and recognition of an incredible person. When I think of Ms. Lyllye I think of warmth and welcoming. I also think of an intense passion and commitment to ensuring every student knew they mattered. She made us all feel that way.

I owe Ms. Lyllye a debt of gratitude for the welcoming campus home and community she fostered for so many of the friends I would meet, and who would become lifelong friends and community to me. So many of the students who became student leaders in organizations during my time on campus credited Ms. Lyllye Reynolds-Parker with making them feel like they belonged on campus. She inspired, mentored, and supported so many of the students I had the privilege to work with and learn from all over campus from the leaders in the U of O student government to the Multi-Cultural Center, to the Black Student Union, the Asian Pacific American Student Union, MEChA, the Women's Center and more.

The story telling, vulnerability, and history she so generously shared with us as students is something I cherish. Her involvement in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is something that inspired many of us to learn more about the history of the student movement and the critical role that students play in social change. In her time at the University of Oregon she inspired, encouraged and cheered on so many incredible student leaders. Those student leaders have gone on to careers that continue to make our state and world a better place and Ms. Lyllye Reynolds-Parker is one of the reasons why so many had the courage and confidence to keep going.

Thank you to the legislators who are sponsoring this resolution, to the community who has celebrated and honored this incredible and inspiring person over the years, and to the students and my dear friends who keep her stories alive. May her passion, warmth, and welcoming spirit live on in all the students whose lives she touched.

I urge your support of HCR 31 and the symbol is creates to honor Ms. Lyllye's legacy and to share with her family, friends and community an expression of our sympathy and condolences.

Emily McLain
UO Student Body President 07-08