

**TRAVIS NELSON**  
**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**  
HOUSE DISTRICT 44  
NORTH/NORTHEAST PORTLAND



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
**Testimony in Support for House Concurrent Resolution 31**

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chair Drazen, Vice Chair Pham, and Members of the House Committee on Rules,

I am writing in strong support of HCR 31, a memorial resolution honoring the extraordinary life, work, and legacy of Lyllye Reynolds-Parker. A woman with a pillar of civil rights advocacy, educational mentorship, and Black community empowerment in Eugene, Oregon.

From being one of the first Black children born at Sacred Heart Hospital to becoming a guiding force at the University of Oregon's Multicultural Center, Ms. Reynolds-Parker life was defined by compassion, courage, and community. She uplifted generations of students, many of whom went on to lead, including Representative Valderrama, a co-chief sponsor of this resolution.

Her family's displacement during urban renewal is not an uncommon story. What is uncommon is the way Ms. Lyllye turned hardship into purpose. Rather than loose hope she leaned in. She enrolled at the University of Oregon at age 40, earning her degree while simultaneously nurturing the minds and hearts of students for the next 17 years as an academic advisor. She not only supported students, she saw them. She affirmed them. And she gave them the courage to become who they were meant to be.

Representative Valderrama's introduction of this resolution is not only fitting but deeply symbolic. She is a former mentee now lifting up the mentor who helped shape her voice and vision. That full-circle moment is a testament to the legacy of Lyllye Reynolds-Parker and a legacy not of monuments, but of people.

The Lyllye Reynolds-Parker Black Cultural Center stands as a living tribute to her vision, and the love shown by her former students — who raised over \$100,000 to help her buy her first home at age 75 — speaks volumes about the impact she had.

I respectfully urge the committee to adopt HCR 31 to formally recognize and celebrate the profound contributions of Ms. Lyllye Reynolds-Parker to the University of Oregon and the broader community. HCR 31 ensures Oregon remembers her not just as a name, but as a force whose legacy continues to shape lives and institutions for the better.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Travis Nelson'.

State Representative Travis Nelson  
House District 44, North/NE Portland