

Chair Bowman, Vice-Chairs Pham and Drazan, members of the committee:

My name is Linh Oliver, and I have the privilege of serving as an intern in the offices of both Vice-Chair Pham and Representative Hòa Nguyễn. I am writing today in my own capacity to express **strong support** for House Concurrent Resolution 36, as one of the Asian Pacific Islander Community Coalition of Oregon (APICCO) interns brought to the legislature this session by Christine Chin Ryan.

I met Christine upon being recruited to APICCO last summer. After finally crawling my way through four years of college, I was burnt out, depressed, and unoptimistic about the future I'd spent my whole life working towards. But from our first interaction, she was a force of nature that made a two-month summer internship feel like the opportunity of a lifetime. Being part of her work and seeing our community through her eyes was a breath of fresh air. In retrospect, I am still in awe of her passion, and the quiet dignity with which she battled her illness while still showing up for us every single day.

After the summer internship ended, I was re-employed through APICCO to host a series of voter education events. It was then that I had my first real one-on-one conversation with Christine. We'd hopped on a Zoom call to talk event logistics; the *second* she logged on, she started quizzing me on my career aspirations instead, offering up about ten different opportunities she thought would suit me. I was grateful, of course, but bewildered. I didn't think she really knew who I was, let alone anything about my interests or dreams. It struck me later: at one of the lower points in my life, Christine cared more about my future than I could. She was so excited to see me make something of myself, and was ready to bend over backwards to make it happen. I deeply regret not getting to tell her how grateful I am for her belief in me.

Despite its impact on dozens of young people, APICCO is only a drop in the vast ocean of Christine's legacy. She founded her own consulting firm, served on countless boards and advisory committees, and dove eagerly into every avenue of activism she could access. She was a selfless advocate that carried Sisyphean burdens on behalf of the communities she served, and did it all with words of wisdom and a smile. She was the kind of leader that made everyone around her excited about the things we could achieve together. She was an inspirational light that empowered countless people to strive for dreams they wouldn't have dared entertain otherwise. For all those she made space for, this is the loss of a lifetime.

Grief is, ultimately, love unspent. With a loss of this magnitude, that touches communities and corners of the world we can't even fully fathom, the love we share demands an outlet worthy of the legacy we're celebrating. More than a memorial, HCR 36 serves as a continuing call to action: for us to embody Christine's strength and spirit as we serve our communities and strive

for a more just world. It reminds us to be both cognizant and eternally grateful for all those who paved the way for us to occupy the spaces we take up today. It directs us to navigate our work with compassion and grace, and to be bold in our care for one another in the life we share.

Christine is so sorely missed, and deserves to be memorialized as the mentor, advocate, and larger-than-life hero that she was. Thank you for your consideration of this resolution — it is such an honor to be part of her legacy, and we greatly appreciate this opportunity to celebrate her.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Linh Oliver', written in a light gray or blue ink.

Linh Oliver