

My name is Chisao Hata
4535 NE 36th Portland, OR 97211

To the members of the House Rules Committee,
I am writing in support of SCR 14.

I am a Sansei, third generation Japanese American. My grandfather, Gunichi Tamiyasu married his "Picture Bride" Chisao Tajima in 1916 and settled in Hood River/Odell, Oregon. I only met my grandfather once, and never knew my grandmother, as she died in childbirth with her ninth child when my mother was 16 years old. My mother Kesaye Tamiyasu had a dream to become a nurse, as she was sickly during her childhood and unable to work the orchards my grandparents owned. As the oldest girl her responsibility might have been to care for her younger siblings at the death of her mother. Instead, my grandfather took her to Portland's Nihonmachi, Japantown, where she was given shelter, food and guidance as she studied nursing at the Portland Adventist Nursing school. She graduated in 1939 the first Japanese American nurse in Portland with a class of all white students.

My mother was assigned by the US Public Health Service to Mayer Assembly Center as the 225th incarcerated person there. Followed by her incarceration at the Poston Internment Camp where she was paid \$19.00 a month as a medical professional. Exiting camp was not easy, and proof of a job in Boulder, Colorado at the Boulder Sanitorium supported her release. The War Relocation Authority released her husband, Ted Hata (whom she married in Poston) to travel on gas rations to Colorado. They traveled to Chicago, and eventually settled in Iowa where they ran out of gas rations on 27th and Forest Avenue, and found their first apartment on 27th Avenue. Years later they purchased a house on 23rd Street where I grew up and they spent the 50 years of their lives at 1800-23rd Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

EO 9066 fractured my family. My parents made a new home and new life without a Japanese American community, without extended family and in a city where ten Japanese American families stayed to build homes, businesses and new lives. EO 9066 shaped my identity, my culture, and my community that was fractured and shamed by this order. I grew up in an environment needing to justify and explain who I was. I believe my deep need to define my identity, has shaped my work, my art and the very fiber of who I am. I often question, who would I have become if my family was not subjected to racism, racist policies, failed leadership and displacement? How much did I lose? The loss for my grandparents and parents is immeasurable, and as a third generation Japanese American one decision affected my entire life and the lives of many other families who left Oregon, Washington and California and settled east of the Rockies. Who could I have become if my life was unaffected by a historical event that denied my rights as an American citizen? How did I feel when my class looked at me in disgust on Pearl Harbor day, over ten years after? The feelings of a child who experiences racism, rejection, and stern judgement is a loss for our country. America suffered with the issuance of EO 9066. We, as Americans, all became less human, less brave, and less empathetic. If we are truly caretakers for our earth and each other, is there a choice which road is the higher road for the greater good? We must acknowledge, heal and ensure that any action, order, law or policy that creates suffering for a few does not create the democracy America can truly be. I urge you to support and pass SCR 14.

Sincerely,
Chisao Hata