

Testimony before the Oregon Senate Rules Committee of the Oregon State Legislature  
2017 Senate Concurrent Resolution 14  
February 10, 2017

To Chair and Members of the Senate Rules Committee;

My name is June Arima Schumann. I reside at 3025 NE 34<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, Oregon.

I am writing in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 14, being considered by the Senate Rules Committee to acknowledge the 75th anniversary of Japanese American internment during World War II and to recognize national Day of Remembrance.

I am writing as a private citizen and a Japanese American. My views are influenced by my many years of community involvement in leadership roles including: founding executive director of Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center (Japanese American history museum) in Portland, past board co-chair for Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon, and most recently as project coordinator for the Minoru Yasui Tribute Project that successfully nominated Mr. Yasui for the 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom. I want to thank the Oregon Legislature for the unanimous vote in 2016 to establish March 28 as "Minoru Yasui Day" in perpetuity.

I applaud this effort by the state legislature to publicly acknowledge one of the most shameful events in American history and for all Oregonians to be made aware of and understand what took place. The signing of EO 9066 is about what the American government did to its own citizens and legal residents without due process. While we can understand the fear that gripped this country in 1942, fear should never be the excuse for scapegoating and taking away civil liberties guaranteed under the United States Constitution.

The Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians reported in 1983 that ***EO 9066 was not justified by military necessity...The broad historical causes...were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.*** (Personal Justice Denied, University of Washington, 1997)

Thank you for your leadership in moving forward on SCR 14, and by doing so acknowledging those who suffered the indignities, economic loss, and deprivations from the denial of basic civil liberties that we should all expect and enjoy. Most importantly I hope that this resolution will inspire all Oregonians to see the relevant connections between the events of 75 years ago and the current political environment that is creating jeopardy to the civil liberties of new groups of immigrants and refugees. Most Oregonians have immigrant past. We should do everything we can to prevent anything like EO 9066 from happening again.

Thank you for this opportunity to participate and to express my support for 2017 SCR 14.

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