

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 2019-4636, by Representative Cody

1       WHEREAS, Sister Sharon Park is a Washington native, born in  
2 Tacoma, raised in Seattle, and educated at Christ the King Catholic  
3 School, Bishop Blanchet High School, and Seattle University, where  
4 she earned a degree in nursing; and

5       WHEREAS, Sister Sharon has devoted her life to the service of  
6 others and working to improve the lives of all Washingtonians,  
7 especially the most vulnerable and those struggling with poverty. She  
8 demonstrated in her early years by entering the Dominican Sisters of  
9 Edmonds in 1963, through her nursing work at the Dominican hospital  
10 in Aberdeen, providing visiting nurse services to low-income  
11 families, and serving as a member of the Archdiocesan Sister's  
12 Council social justice committee; and

13       WHEREAS, As a member of the Archdiocesan Sister's Council social  
14 justice committee, Sister Sharon was selected to participate in a  
15 six-month experience learning the legislative process. When the  
16 Washington State Catholic Conference was formed, Sister Sharon and  
17 Sister Margaret Casey were selected to be the Conference's first  
18 lobbyists; and

19       WHEREAS, In the late 1980's Sister Sharon earned a master's  
20 degree in theological studies with a concentration in biomedical  
21 ethics from Seattle University. Her expertise in nursing and ethics  
22 was especially valuable when she returned to the Catholic Conference,

1 as the State Legislature worked on issues related to health care,  
2 abortion, and end-of-life care; and

3 WHEREAS, For more than four decades, Sister Sharon Park  
4 represented the State's Catholic bishops, including serving as  
5 Executive Director of the Washington State Catholic Conference for  
6 twenty years; and

7 WHEREAS, Legislators and lobbyists often describe her as an  
8 intelligent, thoughtful, and caring member of the Capitol community,  
9 who would also be an effective negotiator on some of the most  
10 difficult issues facing policymakers including homelessness, hunger,  
11 abortion, services for children, foster care, improving mental health  
12 services, the death penalty, and many more; and

13 WHEREAS, Sister Sharon retired from the Catholic Conference in  
14 2017 but continues her work as a leader of the PREPARES Program that  
15 "walks the journey" with pregnant and parenting women, men, and  
16 families, who find themselves lacking a healthy support network, and  
17 as a Member of the Boards of Trustees of Catholic Community Services  
18 of Western Washington and Catholic Housing Services of Western  
19 Washington;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives  
21 honor Sister Sharon Park for her lifelong commitment to helping  
22 others, her tremendous example of living out the values of Catholic  
23 teaching, and her many decades of service as a legislative and  
24 community advocate; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copies of this resolution be  
26 immediately transmitted by the Chief Clerk of the House of  
27 Representatives to Sister Sharon Park.

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