Congressional Record

House of Representatives

IN RECOGNITION OF JERRALYNN NESS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY ACTION OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OREGON

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI
OF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, September 25, 2015

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jerralynn Ness, the Executive Director of Community Action in Washington County, Oregon. After more than 40 years of dedicated service, Jerralynn is retiring.

Jerralynn will leave a remarkable legacy. Her work has made northwest Oregon a better place—a place where people can access the support they need to escape poverty. Under Jerralynn's leadership, Community Action has helped families find housing and afford basic utilities, provide quality early childhood education for their children, and access prenatal and child care services.

Connecting families and children with essential services improves their health and overall quality of life. Just as important, Jerralynn's work contributed to a sense of dignity for the families served through Community Action. Because of Jerralynn, more Oregon families have clean, comfortable homes; more Oregonians have control over their finances; and more children in Oregon are entering school healthy and prepared for academic success. The happy, productive lives of these families are an appropriate tribute to Jerralynn, who has been a selfless champion for those living in poverty.

During decades of change at Community Action, Jerralynn and the organization remained committed to President Johnson's promise of equal opportunity and his directive that we "pursue poverty, pursue it wherever it exists." Jerralynn spent her entire career helping people build better lives. The communities of northwest Oregon will miss Jerralynn's leadership, but her legacy will be carried forward through the families who are now enjoying lives full of opportunity and promise.