

Dear Oregon Representatives,

I am a addictions professional of many years. I have been involved in the treatment of many people addicted to prescribed medications. Most thought they were safe, based on how they were misinformed and through their trust in health professionals.

My hope is that a comprehensive, integrated approach that deals with all facets of the crisis will emerge from your efforts. The current Opioid crisis is only one of many addiction epidemics surrounding prescribed medications ( amphetamines in the 50's, Benzos in the 70's, and now opioids). Smaller abuse cycles have included Quaaludes, Talwin, Propofol and fentanyl to name just a few. They all have these factors in common (1 high profits for the Pharmaceutical Industry, 2) dubious clinical trials cited as evidence, and 3) a lengthy time period before the public gains accurate information regarding risks.

The other essential of such an approach would combine efforts of the Legislature, Law Enforcement, Health Care, Treatment and Public Education. There needs to be

- \* Acknowledgement of the dynamic interactions of prescribed addictive and street drugs. In the current crisis. When there is pressure on prescribing addictive medications, then heroin use increases.

- \* Accountability demanded of the Pharmaceutical Industry , including possible reparations for patients.

- \* Emphasis on treatment vs enforcement.

Public re-education on a large scale on the risks of prescribed addictive medications. Emphasis on skepticism regarding the "evidence" resulting from short term, controlled Clinical Trials.

Essential reading on the current crisis can be found in "Dreamland" by Sam Quinones. He describes Portland and Oregon impacts very specifically.

Even though there will be no public comment, I will be at the Committee meeting on Monday.

Best to you.

Jim Conway LMFT