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February 5, 2020

To: Rep. Tawna Sanchez, Chair
Rep. Janelle Bynum, Vice-Chair
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Vice-Chair
CC: Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 4040**

Good afternoon Chair Sanchez and Committee members. My name is Andrew Swanson and I'm the Policy and Advocacy Director for Oregon Recovers. I'm also a person in long term recovery from addiction to heroin, methamphetamine and alcohol.

Oregon Recovers is a coalition of people in recovery from addiction, our friends and family and the providers who provide critical and valued prevention, treatment and recovery support services. The mission of Oregon Recovers is to transform the existing fractured and incomplete addiction recovery system into a recovery-based, continuum of care which recognizes addiction as a chronic disease requiring a lifetime of support.

As Governor Brown publicly announced nearly two years ago, Oregon is locked in the throes of an unprecedented health crisis. According to the latest SAMHSA Report from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health, Oregon has the 3rd highest untreated addiction rate in the nation and ranks 47th in access to treatment. As a result, five people die each day from alcohol-related deaths and we lose 1 or 2 people each day from drug overdoses. The combined annual total of this carnage is the death of more than 2100 Oregonians. Comparatively, at the height of the AIDS epidemic in 1994, Oregon lost 362 people.

We strongly support HB 4040 because it will allow Oregonians to break the cycle of intergenerational addiction and reunite families ravaged by the disease of addiction. By providing these parents a pathway to recovery, this bill will have lasting positive impacts on these families and the communities they live in.

I would also like to point out that this bill aligns with the recommendations of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission's Statewide Strategic Plan by providing critical treatment services to parents with Substance Use Disorder and reducing or eliminating altogether the time that children must spend in protective custody. The ADPC will be providing the legislature with a blueprint for a comprehensive, recovery-oriented continuum of care and Oregon Recovers feels strongly that no current or future task forces or legislation, should be used as justification to delay action on the Commission's plan to save lives.

Oregon Recovers believes establishing a statewide network Family Treatment Court programs is a critical step towards designing and implementing a recovery-oriented continuum of care that responds to the needs of our families and, most importantly, the children that are impacted by the addiction crisis. Honestly the only problem we see with this bill is that it doesn't provide these programs in every county in Oregon and we hope that this program will provide a roadmap for the legislature to expand this program in next session. We urge you vote "yes" for HB 4040.

For more information contact:

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