



THE FACTS ABOUT HB 3377-5

THE CRISIS

- Oregon has the **5th highest alcoholism rate** in the country (including the District of Columbia)
- Oregon has the **HIGHEST teen addiction rate** in the nation
- **6 People die everyday** in alcohol related deaths in Oregon, **a rate that has increased 34% since 2001**
- Oregon **ranks 47th** in the nation for access to drug and alcohol treatment
- Binge drinking alone costs Oregon taxpayers **\$4.8 billion** per year, or \$1,100 per person
- Each alcoholic drink sold costs \$2.08 in state and local government services
- Untreated addiction overall costs Oregon taxpayers **\$6.7 billion**
- Heavy drinking among women has **increased 41%** during the COVID-19 pandemic



HOW DID WE GET HERE?

- Oregon's addiction recovery healthcare system is **grossly underfunded** resulting in long wait times to access care, little to no culturally informed services and limited access to rural care.
- According to the Legislative Revenue Office (when accounting for the state's lack of a sales tax) Oregon's **beer taxes are the lowest in the country** and have not been adjusted for inflation or raised since 1977. Oregon's **wine taxes are the 2nd lowest in the country** and have not changed since 1983.
- While alcohol continues to be the leading contributor to Oregon's addiction crisis, the 3rd leading cause of preventable death in the state, and the largest cost driver to our healthcare system, the alcohol lobby has fought to prevent ANY conversation about raising the price of alcohol to reduce the harms associated with their products.
- **Less than 1%** of Oregon's alcohol industry is BIPOC owned, yet alcohol's harms disproportionately impact our BIPOC communities and reinforce systemic racism that leads to overrepresentation in our foster care, homeless, and incarcerated populations.
- There has never been a comprehensive plan to address Oregon's growing addiction epidemic until now. In February 2020, the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) released the first-ever strategic plan to end Oregon's addiction crisis.





**THE FACTS
ABOUT
HB 3377-5**

THE SOLUTION:

*A Legislative Task Force
to Craft Legislation*

HB 3377-5 will create a legislative task force that convenes the alcohol industry, treatment and recovery providers and all relevant state agencies to have a meaningful conversation about how to address Oregon's unprecedented addiction crisis.

The task force must develop a proposal to:

1. Significantly reduce underage and binge drinking —two leading causes of long term addiction— through tax and pricing mechanisms
2. Fully fund the comprehensive addiction, prevention, treatment and recovery plan developed by the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission through new and existing tax and pricing mechanisms
3. Employ racial equity and socioeconomic criteria and consider the impact of lack of access to care and excessive alcohol consumption on low-income, BIPOC and tribal communities
4. Evaluate existing revenue sources from alcohol taxes and the adequacy of those revenue sources to fund the comprehensive addiction, prevention, treatment and recovery plan
5. Consider the impacts of different revenue approaches on small craft breweries, wineries and distilleries

“There are almost 400,000 people struggling with addiction across Oregon, primarily alcohol addiction. Balancing concerns for these Oregonians’ health and lives with 1200 alcohol companies is a false equivalency that perpetuates systemic racism.”

– Op-Ed by Se-ah-dom Edmo and Eddie Morales, Oregonian, April 11, 2021

