

From: Pete Lee, volunteer EMT, Multnomah County

I am proud to be represented by the following state-level elected officials:

- The Honorable Senator Ginny Burdick (SD-18)
- The Honorable Representative Lisa Reynolds (HD-36)

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Pete Lee and I have been a volunteer EMT in Oregon for almost 20 years. I have also served on non-profit boards whose mission included serving those who struggle with managing drug addiction. **I support SB 755.**

I have taken time to read some testimony already submitted by a broad and cross-sectional coalition of truly wonderful organizations: out of respect for your time, I will endeavor to avoid duplicative commentary.

I would like to concisely highlight two areas of special concern to me:

1. **As a volunteer EMT, I have personally witnessed the desperate need for bold and compassionate solutions to support those struggling with drug addiction: fellow human beings.** Not a single group of people exists that has been left unscathed: it is an issue that crosscuts social, cultural, economic, and political differences. Frontier, rural, and urban Oregonians deserve effective systems of care and support to give them every chance to participate in our shared social, cultural, economic and civic life.
2. **Veterans who struggle with drug addiction as an attempt to find respite from physical, behavioral, and/or mental illnesses deserve real care and support. It is a moral and patriotic imperative—as Oregonians and Americans—that We Serve Those Who Serve Us.** This is self-evident.

I continue to hope and pray for the safety of every elected official in our Oregon Legislature and the constituencies you serve. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony, as well as the gift of your time for consideration.

Respectfully and Sincerely, A Fellow Oregonian,
-Pete Lee, EMT

N.B. While I am not responding in any official capacity on behalf of the Democratic Party of Oregon, I would be remiss as a volunteer party officer (Vice Chair, male) to not mention a Priority Legislative Action Item I lead the authorship of—subsequently ranked as #1 by hundreds of Platform Convention participants from all over Oregon—as well as an item from the party Platform:

2018 Democratic Party of Oregon Priority Legislative Action Items

1. As health care is a human right, adopt an equitable, high-quality, comprehensive, universal, publicly-funded healthcare system including general, preventative, and emergency care, plus vision, dental, hearing, prescription drugs, long-term care, **substance abuse**, hospice care, and **mental health services** at the state or federal level.

2018 Platform: Article 9. CRIMINAL JUSTICE

“We support establishment and expansion of alternatives to incarceration, and rehabilitation programs to provide opportunities for education and job training for those who have paid their debt to society.”

Authoritative copies of the Platform and Priority Legislative Items documents cited herein may be found at the official Democratic Party of Oregon website: <https://dpo.org/party/platform-priority-legislative-action-items>