



www.oregonrecovers.org

Oregon Recovers strongly supports HB 3377, the Addiction Crisis Recovery Act, and the amendment requiring a legislative task force to develop a proposal that increases alcohol prices to reduce excessive alcohol use and fund prevention, treatment and recovery services.

You will hear a lot today about the unprecedented addiction crisis Oregonians are grappling with. Alcohol is the single largest contributor to Oregon's addiction crisis, killing six times as many people as all drug overdoses combined. One of the two leading factors for long term alcohol abuse is excessive alcohol use, or binge drinking, and the other one is underage drinking. If the legislature passes HB 3377 we would not only see a substantial reduction in binge and underage drinking as a result of price increases, we would also see a dramatic increase in critical services across the state--particularly in rural and underserved areas.

As it stands now, this bill would create:

- 1010 more residential treatment beds
- 1240 more residential detox beds
- 3712 more intensive outpatient openings
- 14 more recovery community centers
- 95 more collegiate recovery programs
- 5143 new jobs distributed across all 36 counties

In the last 21 years we've seen a 34% increase in alcohol mortality in Oregon which demonstrates a clear failure on the state's part to balance public health with the economic prosperity of the alcohol industry. The alcohol industry's lobbyists have managed to keep any tax increases at bay for 40 years, meaning that we are providing this industry with an effective tax break, while their products cost \$2.08 for every drink sold in Oregon and contributed to sky high addiction rates and the death of 2,181 Oregonians in 2019 alone.

No one here today is arguing against having a robust local craft beer, wine and distilled spirits industry. This industry has contributed jobs and economic growth to areas that needed it most. What we are arguing against is giving these companies--along with the large out of state producers that make up over 70% of the market share and the large distributors owned by out of state hedge funds--a government subsidy while their products kill people and destroy families.

Time and time again industry representatives have claimed that they support ending Oregon's addiction crisis and are looking for opportunities to work together. This is that opportunity and I implore the producers, distributors and retailers to come to the table in good faith and work with legislators on common sense tax increases and minimum pricing strategies.

These businesses need to pay taxes to offset the economic and societal costs that their products create, which is why Oregon Recovers supports HB 3377 and urges the committee to support the amendment to create a legislative task force.