

Tri-Chairs of Ways and Means,

My name is May and I live in North Portland, which is in District 3. I have worked with youth in the juvenile justice system, as well as in the youth prevention and addiction field and have seen firsthand the effects that alcohol and drug addiction has on people and their families. There are not enough treatment beds, outpatient services, or funds geared towards prevention to serve the people in our state that need the support. Alcohol kills ~5 Oregonians per day (or 20,000 people a year), which is a 34% increase since 2000. This state has one of the highest addiction rates and lowest rates for access to treatment. Something needs to change. I urge you to fund Representative Sanchez's legislative task force on HB 3377 so that we can finally have a meaningful conversation about how to sustainably fund behavioral health services in Oregon. The creation of this task force is critical as Oregonians continue to lose their lives to alcohol and addiction.

Thank you.

Margaret Yates