

HB3111
02/24/2021
Robert Sanders Testimony

Madam Chair, Vice-Chair, committee members.

For the Record, My name is Robert Sanders, I work as the PRIME+ Lead Recovery Mentor at the 4th Dimension Recovery Center and am a person with multiple years of sobriety.

When I returned home to Oregon from my second military deployment and faced the civilian world again, I felt broken out of place, and unable to recreate the connection that I had once felt with fellow servicemembers. These conditions brewed my transition from chronic-alcoholism to an existence of hopeless drug-addiction, homelessness, and petty crime as a means to finance it. This rapid decline didn't appear to have an off-ramp – I continuously let people down around me, I felt like no one understood what I was going through.

But a miracle happened, that miracle came in the form of a Recovery Center where I could identify with my peers – where I learned how to have fun without the use of drugs, and where I was guided to resources that allowed me to reclaim my life. This miracle started with someone simply saying, me too.

My Mentor said Me Too when I came into their office struggling to stay clean while they talked me into earning another 24 hours.

My Mentor said Me Too to feelings of inadequacy and showed me how to develop confidence.

My Mentor said Me Too about the fear of being a father and showed me how to show up on a consistent basis for her.

And My Mentor helped me develop the social network that surrounds me today as I celebrate successes and weather storms. Today I have a community that gets to help me become a better husband to my wife and father to our daughter. I have a network that shows me our only limitations are the ones that we create for ourselves.

Today I am blessed with the opportunity to serve as that person who gets to say me too, that gets to share my experience as a point of reference for the people coming behind me. That is my primary purpose, and that is what the 4th Dimension Recovery Center offers to me.

I cannot imagine going back to an existence without connection or hope for the future. That is what makes this work my passion and that is why I am thanking Representative Sanchez for being the chief sponsor of this bill and ensuring that these services remain structured and client-focused throughout the state. I urge this committee to recommend that Ways and Means fund HB 3111. The need is critical.

Thank you Madam Chair & this committee.