

THANK YOU REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ for allowing me to testify on this important HB 3111.

I AM HERE TODAY In SUPPORT of HB3111 as I represent rural Oregon and communities that have minimal resources and access to care difficulties based on multiple social determinants of health issues. substance use disorder is IMPACTING MY community.

My name is Lalori Lager I am the Executive Director of ReConnections Counseling in RURAL Lincoln County.

Four weeks ago I was offered to Rent the old Oregon Coast Community College building in the middle of Newport. We are currently in renovation to open what we call the ANNEX in the next 4 weeks.

I have extended an invitation to numerous community PARTNERS to join me in a community response to this crisis.

ReConnections Counseling understands that in RURAL communities that we need community engagement as one small entity Like myself is unable to do it on our own. This bill will help facilitate small agencies like myself to open COMMUNITY REcovery CENTERS with peer led leaders to reduce recidivism and increase access to substance abuse treatment. This is a cost effective approach as multiple agencies can work together.

RIGHT NOW... I have started this process in LINcoln County to improve OUTCOMES and make an collective impact, but cannot do it all by myself. I have taken a LEAP of faith as I know it is the right thing to do for the community, but need ongoing SUPPORT in keeping the Center open for long term sustainability.

Community REcovery Centers allow PEERS and Mentors to partner together to support people and encourage long term recovery.

THANK YOU REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ for being the sponsor of this bill and for allowing me to testify.

I AM HERE TODAY In SUPPORT of HB3111 bill as I represent rural Oregon and communities that have minimal resources and access barriers that Community Recovery centers could decrease significantly.

THANK YOU AGAIN Chair Sanchez.