

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee;

My name is Beverly DeLeonardis and I live in Central Point, in Jackson County, Oregon. My Representative is Dwayne Stark. I am a Unite Oregon member and a representative on the C4 board from Southern Oregon. I am retired now but I have a Masters of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology and am certified in drug and alcohol abuse.

As a counselor, I have witnessed the destruction of many families due to the abuse of alcohol and drugs. The lack of places to send individuals in crisis, the lack of professionals and programs in our community exacerbate the problems. They become detrimental to the health and welfare of the people that live here. The people in our communities who are suffering are people of color, poor people, working families, and children. These are people that don't have the financial wherewithal to get help even if it was readily available. Alcohol and drug abuse is a medical problem and to "Just Say No" doesn't work. We need to be more progressive in our thinking.

SB 755 can give Jackson County some financial help. We could establish a detox center, build a residential area for people to recover within our community, establish more programs and hire more professionals to help individuals overcome their addiction. These could be tax payers and better yet healthier people that can contribute to our community.

I hope you are all able to vote to pass this for your constituents, neighbors, friends and family