

Chair Prusak & Members of the House Health Care Committee:

My name is Russell Wimmer. I am an actively practicing advanced clinician in Lebanon Oregon, in arenas of both primary care, and addiction/recovery medicine.

In my roles as a medical provider, I am involved in all stages of substance use abuse dependency, and recovery treatments, and frequently see first-hand the impact that these diseases have on individuals and our community.

According to recent [data set](#) by the US standard in substance use and treatment SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services) Oregon currently ranks #2 in the US in substance use per capita (18.22% of the population suffering from addiction to alcohol and/or drugs. Representing nearly 1 in 5 Oregonians), and ranks dead last in the US for access to services.

Due to lack of resources, and elements greatly exacerbated by the pandemic, for the last 2-1/2 years we have seen a marked increase in substance use disorder, and, likewise, subsequent overdoses, to the extent of 70% increase in overdose deaths during April and May 2019, [as reported by OHA](#). This trend is currently continuing, with Oregon ranking #1 in prescription Opiate misuse with a yearly average increase in drug overdoses of 39% between 2019 and 2020.

It is with the above alarming statistics, my personal experiences in providing recovery care, and my commitment towards the wellness of our state and local communities that I put behind HB 4081 my full support, and further encourage legislators, as they review this bill to similarly support, and work towards passing, this important legislation and in so doing, take another step in decreasing the risk of substance use related overdoses within our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Russell Wimmer PA-C

Samaritan Medical Group Addiction and Recovery Services

Samaritan Medical Group Primary Care Clinician