

TO: The Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health and Healthcare

CC: Chair Representative Rob Nosse, Vice Chair Representative Christine Goodwin, Vice Chair Representative Travis Nelson.

RE: Representative Maxine Dexter, Opioid Omnibus Bill HB 2395

DATE: January 29th, 2023

My name is Tony Vezina, I am the Executive Director of 4D Recovery and the Chair of the State's Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, and I am writing in support of the Opioid Omnibus Bill.

Reasons:

1. I would like to highlight the following statement from Representative Dexter in the Opioid Policy Packate One Pager: "This package seeks to address current barriers to harm reduction efforts to start saving lives as soon as possible. **These are not silver bullets but rather concepts to uplift harm reduction as part of the treatment continuum.**" This statement demonstrates an informed and thoughtful approach to improving our behavioral health system.
2. According to the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission and Oregon Health Science University's SUD Gaps Analysis, Oregon needs
 - a. 44 more facilities distributing fentanyl test strips, a 45% gap.
 - b. 94 more facilities with Naloxone distribution, a 28% gap.
 - c. 1955 more buprenorphine prescriber waivers, a 51% gap.
3. 4D Recovery Services will be improved with this package, specifically:
 - a. **Outreach, Engagement and Interventions:** 4D operates street level harm reduction efforts and this legislation would provide our teams additional safer-using supplies.
 - b. **Naloxone Distribution:** Our overdose reversal efforts need a sustainable influx of overdose drugs. We would recommend collaborating with Oregon Health Authorities Save Lives Oregon Harm Reduction Initiative and its harm reduction clearing house.
 - c. **Youth Access:** We are opening a new adolescent recovery center and are encouraged at the intent to expand access to adolescent treatment services.

Thank you so much for your service and please contact me with any questions.

Tony Vezina



Executive Director, 4D Recovery
Chair, Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission