

Testimony in support of HB 2395  
House BH and HC  
1/30/2023  
Lisa Reynolds, MD; State Rep OR HD34

Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and members of the committee,

For the record, my name is Lisa Reynolds, state representative from HD 34 in Northeast Washington County and Five Oaks. This is my first in-person testimony and I daresay it's a little intimidating with you all lording over me, and I know you!

I am a mother and a pediatrician, and I am here today in strong support and as a chief co-sponsor for HB 2395.

I am very grateful to say that I have not had too many patients with opioid addictions. Still, the young people with these addictions that I've helped take care of are seared in my memory - as I have seen this disease inflict tremendous harm on patients and their families, and, of course, our entire community. And I know that this tragic disease affects people in every community in our state, large and small, rural and urban.

We know that, like with so many other afflictions, the majority of adults who have substance use disorders started using substances in their younger years. It's why we work so hard to provide preventative mental health treatment for young Oregonians, and why we must do better in providing these services for our youth - a plug for this committee.

It's also important for families to keep opioids out of the home, and to tightly minimize their use in youth pain management. These are conversations I have in my clinic all the time.

And then, IF opioid addiction gets its claws in a young person, it's important to reduce the harm from this disease – including making available new *sterile* syringes and needles in order to reduce the spread of dangerous infections. Harm reduction also means ensuring access to test strips that reduce the risk of overdose deaths – especially the deep risk posed by fentanyl masquerading as other pills.

And it's crucial, and truly the only option for the patient's health and survival, to initiate aggressive treatment including therapy and supervision. Of course, our

**goal is to include the family every step of the way, but sadly, occasionally the family is not able to be the support that a young person needs. We must do *whatever it takes* to treat the patient, even if it means making more decisions independent of the traditional family.**

**One more thing that this bill does that improves the response to youth opioid addiction is the reporting requirement: should there be an opioid overdose in a youth or young adult, the local mental health authorities in the patient's county will be informed. This will help provide services to that community - to those who have tragically lost their friend, their classmate, or their family member – as well as to monitor for trends and inform the state's response.**

**As a pediatrician, as a parent to two young men, and as a concerned Oregonian, I thank Rep Dexter and this committee for bringing this bill forward and I look forward to the good its implementation will bring to every corner of Oregon.**