

Bill: House Bill 2767

Position: Support

Name: STEPHEN J. KASSEBAUM

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the House Committee on Education:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 2767, which will create a long-term, sustainable funding and governance model for recovery high schools in Oregon. Recovery high schools provide a safe, supportive education for youth in recovery from substance use and mental health disorders and **it is critical that Oregon begin investing in these life-saving programs.**

HB 2767 is the product of an interim interagency workgroup commissioned by HB 5202 in 2022 and offers a clear, collaborative path forward to expand, support and govern recovery high schools across the state.

As a parent of school-age children, and as a close friend to several people who've had to struggle to help their own children as they battle addictions or mental health challenges; and strive to recover their life, it's imperative that we, and you, support this legislation! I can honestly say that I'm proud to know there is support for these kinds of programs across political lines and I discern that you understand this issue transcends all cultural and ethnic boundaries. This vital program saves lives, renews hope, and gives our kids a place to land on their feet. Your support on this initiative is critical to many children's futures.

Oregon ranks last in the nation for substance use treatment and recovery support. This legislation provides a cost-effective and proven way to support adolescents in recovery as they work to gain their high school diploma.

On behalf of myself, my family, and all I know who are dealing with this life-altering issue, **I urge your support for House Bill 2767** and ask that you vote **YES** on this critically-needed, thoughtfully-created legislation.

Thank you,

Stephen Kassebaum