

Bill: House Bill 2767

Position: Support

Name: Heidi Wallace, MA, LPC, NCC, MAC

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

I am writing today on behalf of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation in support of House Bill 2767, which will create a long-term, sustainable funding and governance model for recovery high schools in Oregon.

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.

Hazelden Betty Ford is the nation's largest nonprofit system of addiction treatment, mental health care, recovery resources and related prevention and education services. We have been a care provider in Oregon for more than two decades, with sites in Newberg and Beaverton and telehealth services that reach people in all corners of the state.

Nationally, Hazelden Betty Ford has seen firsthand the powerful impact of recovery high schools on our former patients and on families and communities across the United States. Recovery high schools provide a safe, supportive education for youth in recovery from substance use and mental health disorders. They are an essential part of the ecosystem in recovery-ready communities, and **it is critical that Oregon invests in these life-saving programs.**

I am currently a Harmony Academy board member and the VP of the Norwest with for Hazelden Betty Ford. I have dedicated 26 years of my career working in both substance use and mental health services in Oregon. By providing a supportive educational setting for students who share a unique healing bond, recovery high schools empower sustained recovery and enable young people to stay on a positive trajectory that pays societal dividends for decades to come. **This legislation provides a cost-effective, proven way to invest in young people and Oregon's future.**

On behalf of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, **I urge your support for House Bill 2767** and ask that you vote **YES** on this critically needed, thoughtfully created legislation.

Thank you,

Heidi Wallace
VP of Northwest
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation