

**Bill:** House Bill 2767

**Position:** Support

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.

I have been an Oregon public school educator since 1985. As a teacher and then as an administrator I have seen the detrimental effects of substance use and mental health disorders on our youth. In even the most severe cases I worked with, there was always the desire on the part of the youth and their families to continue and complete their education. As a society, we continue to tell people that education provides the best path to a successful, healthy, and happy future. As an educator, I firmly believe this to be true and I have seen the evidence that recovery high schools provide youth facing the challenges of substance use and mental health disorders the supportive services and education necessary to achieve the goal of a high school diploma. I had the privilege to help develop the charter application for the Oregon Recovery High School Initiative and Harmony Academy, Oregon's first Recovery High School. The research we reviewed showed the success of recovery high schools in helping youth to remain substance free and to finish high school. House Bill 2767 will fully fund recovery high schools and will make this innovation a reality for families across the state, saving lives and improving communities.

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 youth in recovery and myself as an Oregon educator, **I urge your support for House Bill 2767** and ask that you vote **YES** on this critically needed, thoughtfully created legislation.

Thank you,  
Janice M. Adams