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Healthy Sustainable Communities
8840 Sw Holly Ln Suite 103
Wilsonville, Oregon 97070

Bill: House Bill 2767

Position: Support

Name: Jon Legarza

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.

Recovery high schools provide a critical resource for young people who are recovering from substance use and mental health disorders, and they offer a safe and supportive learning environment. By investing in these programs, Oregon can provide a much-needed lifeline for students who may otherwise struggle to complete their high school education. The collaborative approach offered by the bill's workgroup ensures that the state can expand and govern recovery high schools in a sustainable and effective manner. Furthermore, investing in these programs is a cost-effective way to support adolescents in recovery and improve Oregon's overall substance use treatment and recovery support, which is currently lagging behind the rest of the county. I have personally seen how these programs provide excellent results in other states, we need to move forward in supporting these life-saving programs for young people.

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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 Healthy Sustainable Communities, **I urge your support for House Bill 2767** and ask that you vote **YES** on this critically-needed, thoughtfully-created legislation.

Thank you,

Jon Legarza
Principal

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