

**Bill:** House Bill 2767

**Position:** Support

**Name:** Leota Childress

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.

Substance abuse and mental health disorders that go untreated in a student's life set them up for failure. A recovery high school will set them up for success. Let's move up from ranking a sad 50<sup>th</sup> place for treatment and recovery.

Oregon literally 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.

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

Thank you,

Leota Childress