



Oregon

Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

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To: House Education Committee
From: Jill Gray, Acting Director, Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission
Date: March 21, 2023
RE: **Testimony on HB 2767**

Chair Neron and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments about HB 2767. The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) is not taking a position on HB 2767, but instead offering these comments for Legislators' information.

In early 2020, ADPC submitted a statewide strategic plan for improving substance use services to the Governor and the Legislature. The plan was approved by both, and it is now Oregon's Strategic Plan for Substance Use Services. One of the ultimate goals of this plan is to increase Oregon's recovery rate, meaning increasing the number of Oregonians who are able to achieve and maintain recovery from a substance use problem.

I'm sure committee members have read Oregon's distressing statistics regarding youth substance use. But the good news is there are actions we can take to help Oregon's youth. These actions are outlined in the Strategic Plan, and one of those actions is expanding the number of recovery high schools.

Recovery high schools are specifically designed for students in recovery from substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. The primary purpose of a recovery high school is to educate students who are in recovery and help them move toward graduation, but doing this work in a way that supports each student's continued recovery journey. There are very few recovery services available for youth in Oregon, but expanding the number of recovery high schools is one thing we can do today to offer more recovery services to youth and increase Oregon's recovery rate.

Recently, ADPC worked with Oregon Health and Sciences University on a substance use services gap analysis. The gap analysis found that recovery services had some of the largest gaps across Oregon and we need to invest in more recovery services. HB 2767 supports this action and, therefore, supports Oregon's Strategic Plan and the findings of the gap analysis.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments, and I am happy to answer any questions Committee members may have.