

M. Elizabeth Allen

Bill: House Bill 2767

Position: Support

Name: M. Elizabeth Allen, Private Citizen

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.

As a lifelong Oregonian I have had careers in banking, high tech, non-profit and now education. When I retired from my work as a Development Director for a Catholic school and parish, I made a decision to become a substitute special education aide in the Hillsboro school district, working at elementary school level. I have done this as an employee of ESS who provides substitutes in a number of local school districts. What I have observed has been eye-opening indeed, and I urge you to take action to pass House Bill 2767 to meet the needs of our youth in recovery.

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.

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

Thank you,

M. E. Allen

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