

April 18th 2023

House Committee on Rules

RE: Alcohol Pricing and Addiction Services



Dear Chair Fahey, Vice-Chairs Breese-Iverson and Kropf and members of the House Committee on Rules:

The Vibrant Future Coalition thanks you for supporting policies that address Oregon's alcohol crisis. **Implementing policies that focus on the economic and social costs of alcohol addiction will save lives!**

The Vibrant Future Coalition focuses on youth drug and alcohol prevention in North Clackamas and East Multnomah Counties. We regularly provide classroom presentations on alcohol and its detrimental effects on the developing brain. We encourage youth to abstain from alcohol use altogether or at least wait until they are of legal age. As prevention specialists, we strongly support robust regulations focused on alcohol pricing and addiction services.

The impact of Oregon's catastrophic alcohol crisis is felt across the state:

- 12.34% of Oregonians age 12 and older have an alcohol use disorder--**the 5th highest rate in the country**. That means 453,609 Oregon residents age 12 and up are addicted to alcohol. That's about 7,560 people per Oregon House District, and roughly 15,120 people per Oregon Senate District.
- OHA has stated in their Rethink the Drink campaign: "Oregonians of all racial and ethnic backgrounds and at all income levels drink excessively. But the harms fall disproportionately on Black and Indigenous communities and people with lower incomes and less education, who experience higher rates of alcohol-related diseases and other harms."
- Excessive alcohol use is Oregon's third-leading preventable cause of death and disease.
- Excessive alcohol use cost Oregon \$4.8 billion in 2019, including \$2.19 billion in lost labor productivity. Loss of productivity drives up the cost of goods and services in Oregon.
- Alcohol kills 6 Oregonians every day.
- Oregon ranks 50th--dead last--in access to treatment.

Please continue to support and champion policies that will help us better understand the scope of the state's alcohol crisis and gain insight into how to most effectively and efficiently stop the loss of life. **It is critical now more than ever to protect Oregon families and the state's economy from the detrimental impacts of alcohol addiction and excessive use.**

Thank you for continuing to support policies that will contribute to solving Oregon's alcohol crisis. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Vibrant Future Coalition

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