



To: House Rules Committee
From: Jill Gray, Acting Director, Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission
Date: April 20, 2023
RE: **Testimony on HB 3610**

Chair Fahey and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments about HB 3610. The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) is not taking a position on HB 3610, 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 decrease Oregon's substance use disorder rate through a variety of strategies, including increasing prevention services and reducing easy access to alcohol.

Here in Oregon we have some of the highest substance use disorder rates in the country, and the most common disorder among Oregonians is an alcohol use disorder. This is one of the reasons why Oregon's Strategic Plan highlights the need for increasing effective prevention services and decreasing access to alcohol through such mechanisms as adjusting alcohol prices. The Strategic Plan also calls for reducing the economic burden of substance misuse, which is defined as the cost to Oregon of responding to the problems caused by substance misuse (eg: increased criminal justice or healthcare costs). These are all subjects that will be studied by the task force established in HB 3610.

Recently, ADPC worked with Oregon Health and Sciences University on a substance use services gap analysis. The gap analysis found that prevention had some of the largest gaps across Oregon and we need to invest in more prevention services and prevention specialists. HB 3610 supports this action by studying, among other things, alcohol use disorder prevention. Therefore, we view this bill as being in alignment with both the 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.