



2/5/24

Chair Nosse, Vice Chair Goodwin and committee members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Debby Jones and I am the Certified Prevention Specialist for Wasco County. For full disclosure, I am also a member of the Alcohol Drug Policy Commission but today I am speaking to you as an individual who has been doing substance use prevention for 19 years in Wasco County.

As I have read the documents regarding HB 4070, I see many positives; however, I also have concerns.

Within the bill, it speaks of 7.85 million for increased mental health and substance use services, but nowhere could I find a connection to the workforce who actually is educated in substance use prevention.

In section 3, item 4 it mentions a number of entities that should be included in the planning process for school based health centers – regional health equity coalitions are specifically identified but not the Alcohol Drug Education Coordinators and their county coalitions. In my opinion, this is a critical omission and impacts the desired outcomes of this bill.

If you are attempting to prevent youth substance use, you must include a workforce that is certified in prevention science. You have that workforce in Oregon. You just need to support and include it in the efforts for healthy and thriving children and families.

My ask is that any type of funding that is directed towards preventing youth substance use, also known as primary prevention, be one of focus and proper expertise. We must have a coordinated, all hands on deck effort to take on these complex but solvable issues.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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