



February 13, 2024
HB 4093 - Support

Chair Grayber, Vice Chair Lewis and members of the House Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans Committee:

The Oregon Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO) represents the state's 33 local public health departments. We advocate for funding and policies that will improve the health of Oregon communities. As such, CLHO is in full support of HB 4093 - Rep. Walters' bill to require that at least one member of the OLCC Board have a background in public health.

As you may know, the creation of the OLCC was how Oregon transitioned out of prohibition. Its charge was to ensure the public's health through liquor control.

Over the years, the OLCC Board has veered toward business interests and so this measure provides a gentle course correction back to the original purpose of the Board. We believe that this is a reasonable first step.

And I'll just note that in the fall, a new member was appointed to the OLCC Board who does have a background in public health, so this bill will cause no hardship to the OLCC in implementation.

Alcohol is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States – killing more people annually than all other drugs combined. It's a big concern of public health advocates, and we believe it's time to take a more balanced approach to policy and policy-making Boards like the OLCC.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sarah Lochner'.

Sarah Lochner
Executive Director
Oregon CLHO

