



Wednesday, February 5, 2025

To: Members of the Joint Addiction and Community Safety Response
Re: SB 236 and HB 3009, support of the MOUD Grant Program

Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, members of the committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Health Justice Recovery Alliance (HJRA), a statewide advocacy organization representing over 100 community providers of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, harm reduction, and recovery services. HJRA strongly supports HB 3009 and Section 18 of SB 236, the expansion opportunity for Oregon's Jail-Based Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Grant Program. Expanding access to evidence-based treatment is critical to saving lives and addressing Oregon's addiction crisis.

Allowing the Opioid Use Disorder Medication Grant Program to expand to facilities beyond the currently allowed city & county jails would provide critical opportunities for opioid use disorder treatment and transition planning services in community settings. Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is the gold standard of treatment, backed by extensive research showing that it significantly increases treatment retention, reduces cravings, and lowers the risk of overdose. Expanding MOUD in correctional settings is particularly crucial—data consistently shows that individuals leaving incarceration face a dramatically higher risk of fatal overdose. Providing buprenorphine and other MOUD in jails and community correction centers has been shown to increase long-term recovery success and reduce recidivism.¹

Oregon is facing an addiction crisis, and we must use solutions that work. Expanding MOUD access ensures that more people receive the treatment they need when they need it—without long waitlists or unnecessary barriers, both in and out of the carceral systems. Moreover, we must not return to ineffective,

¹ Pourtaher E, Gelberg KH, Fallico M, Ellendon N, Li S. Expanding access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in jails: A comprehensive program evaluation. *J Subst Use Addict Treat.* 2024 Jun;161:209248. doi: 10.1016/j.josat.2023.209248. Epub 2023 Dec 9. PMID: 38081540.



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unitive policies that disproportionately harm Black and Brown Oregonians. Instead, we should empower mental health and treatment professionals to provide care, ensuring equitable access to life-saving services.

We urge you to support the expansion of MOUD access and move Oregon toward a more effective, evidence-based response to addiction.

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