

March 8, 2025

Dear Co-Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, and Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response:

I live in Eugene, Oregon in the districts of Senator Prozanski and Representative Fragala. I am writing to ask you to support HB2502 because the bill will improve our state's professional training and the competency of the healthcare workforce. The funding for Oregon Health and Sciences University's ECHO program can play a key role in equipping addiction specialists and primary care physicians to reach youth in dire need of care.

While I have spent the past decade advocating for public policy and system changes to improve the Addiction Medicine network, youth care is not my area of expertise. In 2024, the Adolescent SUD ECHO was very valuable to me professionally. The faculty were excellent at simplifying addiction medicine for teens and making me feel more confident about my ability to treat younger patients. The faculty team was well-rounded in terms of their roles and practice environments. This made me confident that this type of care is adaptable and does not always require advanced training in pediatrics.

I'm an Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine physician. Internal Medicine is general medicine for adults. I have not worked with people under the age of 17 years since 2009, which is 16 years ago. I felt concerned that I lacked the basic pediatric and adolescent healthcare knowledge to make a meaningful contribution to youth addiction care.

The ECHO's didactic presentations filled in my knowledge gaps, which were smaller than I'd previously thought. Seeing the similarities to adult addiction medicine boosted my confidence more quickly than I'd thought possible.

The case discussions were excellent. The patients were in difficult situations and it helped that we could all see those challenges similarly. Isolated clinical practice can sometimes discourage physicians because we may think that we do not know enough to help our patients. Working as a team on complex cases increases our understanding and skill and it alleviates the stress and exhaustion we may experience from thinking that we simply are not the right people to help our patients.

My medical group is based in multiple states in the Pacific Northwest. I plan to help them expand access to care for youth in as many sites as possible. I also plan to open my subspecialty addiction medicine practice to youth in Eugene, Oregon. Without my experience in the OHSU Adolescent SUD ECHO program, I would not have felt prepared to start this important work.

Thank you for supporting HB2502 and for all your other efforts.

Best Regards,



Moxie Loeffler, DO, MPH, Fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine
Eugene, Oregon