

Submitter: Bo Brinson

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2502

TO: Oregon Joint Commission on Addiction and Community Safety Response

RE: Support for Bills 2502, 3321, 3375

FROM: Bo Brinson, Oregon Recovers

Chair Proszanski, Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Bo Brinson, and I am the Executive Director of Oregon Recovers, a statewide non-profit organization fighting to end Oregon's addiction crisis by increasing access to effective services. There is nothing more needed than preventing our children from becoming addicted and intervening early when substance use disorders take effect.

65% of Oregon teenagers and 83% of young adults 18-25 who needed substance use disorder treatment did not receive it, according to National Data. What is talked about a lot is addiction's impacts on individuals and society, but what is forgotten is the impact people have when they don't become addicted and after they get into recovery.

Increasing access to services requires increasing funding and addressing administrative inefficiencies. Primary Prevention experts across the state have made it clear that Oregon requires changes in the management of prevention funding and that the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission is the vessel for system improvements. HB 2502, 3321, and 3375 all center the ADPC in crafting solutions with the support of subject matter experts and state agency leadership. Oregon Recovers identified the ADPC as a force of change in 2017 and is highly pleased to see the progression of its identity and role in addressing systemic barriers to effective service delivery.

The need for system improvements shouldn't negate our ability to fund sensible, proven, and pragmatic opportunities that address access to care. For example, Recovery High Schools are proven to be effective in helping young people struggling with addiction. Reducing funding to these schools is a step backward, and Oregon Recovers encourages this committee to use any means to keep the recovery high school movement moving.

Children are our most valuable asset. Please take the necessary steps to safeguard them from the devastation of addiction.

Please vote Yes on HBs 2502, 3321, & 3375.

Bo Brinson

Executive Director, Oregon Recovers