

Submitter: Caren Lowrey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3321

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 2502, HB 3321, HB 3375

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

My name is Caren Lowrey, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2502, HB 3321, and HB 3375.

As a professional drug education and prevention specialist as well as a person in long term recovery, have seen firsthand the urgent need for stronger primary prevention programs and expanded services for Oregon's youth. The best treatment for substance use disorder is PREVENTION!

- I appreciate the Legislature's efforts to develop and implement a primary prevention state strategy (HB 3321).
- Ensure a clear and comprehensive assessment of youth substance use prevention, screening, intervention, and treatment and support invaluable recovery high schools (HB 3375, HB 2502).
- Strengthen the role of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, requiring distinct and regular youth-focused and primary prevention reporting on plans and outcomes (HB 2502, HB 3321, HB 3375, and ultimately HB 2929).

If these bills merge, I respectfully request that the definition of primary prevention remain strong and that

a clear, strategic approach to primary prevention not be weakened. Additionally, I urge the Committee to

consider ensuring explicit youth and primary prevention reporting requirements as a distinct pillar within HB 2929.

Thank you for your leadership on these critical issues. By supporting these bills, you will safeguard

Oregon's youth, strengthen families, and promote healthier communities across our state. I appreciate

your consideration and respectfully request your "Do Pass" and "Yes" vote on these

measures.

Sincerely,
Caren Lowrey, CPRS
Caron Treatment Centers