

Comments in Support of House Bill 3321

From David Westbrook, Chief Operating Officer and Chief of Staff Lines for Life

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Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

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

My name is David Westbrook, and I represent Lines for Life, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing substance abuse and suicide and promoting mental wellness across Oregon. Our organization has been in continuous operation since 1993 and throughout those 32 years substance abuse prevention has been core to our mission.

I am here today to urge your support for HB 3321, a bill that represents a pivotal step in ensuring strong, coordinated leadership in substance use disorder (SUD) prevention in Oregon.

We are at a critical moment. Oregon has made important investments in treatment and harm reduction, but prevention—the key to reducing future harm—has not received the sustained focus or funding that is critical to our success in reducing our state’s drug use problem. We cannot afford to wait until more lives are lost to addiction. The time to return to prevention is now.

The first and most essential element of successful prevention is leadership. HB 3321 ensures that leadership by vesting authority in the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC). To be effective, leadership must be more than advisory—it must have teeth and authority to drive a coordinated prevention strategy across Oregon. We urge the Legislature to explicitly designate ADPC as the primary home for substance use prevention and hold it accountable for measurable outcomes.

Further, leadership alone is not enough. We must take action. Oregon needs more than just planning—we need a real and immediate launch of SUD prevention education in schools. We already have a strong model in Adi’s Act, which successfully implemented suicide prevention education statewide. This model should be extended to substance use prevention, ensuring that every young person in Oregon receives age-appropriate, evidence-based education on the risks of addiction.

HB 3321 represents a turning point for Oregon’s approach to prevention. We urge you to support it, strengthen it, and make clear that prevention is a priority, not an afterthought.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue and for your commitment to the health and well-being of Oregonians. I respectfully ask for your “Do Pass” recommendation on HB 3321.