

**TO:** Oregon Joint Commission on Addiction and Community Safety Response

**RE:** Support for Bills 2502 & 3321

**FROM:** Tony Vezina, 4D Recovery

Chair Prozanski, Chair Kropf, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Tony Vezina, and I am the Executive Director of 4D Recovery, a nonprofit organization that provides comprehensive services to help teens, young adults, and their families overcome substance use disorders.

I am a person in long-term recovery from addiction, and as a father, I know firsthand the genetic vulnerability my children face when it comes to substance use. Fortunately, in my role as Chair of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, I have access to expert-driven prevention strategies, which I incorporate into my parenting. Additionally, as the leader of a recovery organization, I am well-positioned to help my children if they ever face substance use challenges—but not every parent has the same resources or support.

Everyone deserves access to education and skills to resist the widespread availability of drugs in Oregon. Substance use is so prevalent that just this week, I saw multiple marijuana shops advertising eighths for \$5.00—compared to \$45.00 when I was growing up. While fentanyl rightly dominates the conversation, drug trends shift over time, and we need proactive strategies that evolve with them.

A critical step is strengthening school-based interventions, including Recovery High Schools. As a co-founder of the Recovery High School Movement in Oregon, I believe we must ensure the continued operation of our two existing schools and work to expand access across the state. These schools save lives, reduce taxpayer costs, and cultivate future sober leaders. At 4D Recovery, we proudly partner with both recovery high schools, and we witness firsthand how these once hopeless students now radiate enthusiasm and purpose. Their parents, who once lived in fear and despair, can finally sleep at night knowing their children are safe.

I fully support HBs 2502 and 3321 and urge legislators to collaborate with primary prevention experts to clearly define and distinguish prevention from harm reduction and treatment interventions. These distinctions are critical to ensuring effective policy and program implementation.

Please support HBs 2502 & 3321.

**Tony Vezina**

**Executive Director, 4D Recovery**