

March 12, 2005

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

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

My name is Elizabeth Glaser and I am writing to express my strong support of the proposed legislation known as HB 2502, HB 3321, HB 3375. Prior to retiring to Oregon, I spent over 30 years working as a senior executive in the fields of health and human services in Massachusetts. I served as the lead administrator for the combined departments of psychiatry in the hospital system lead by the Massachusetts General Hospital and Brigham and Women's Hospital, as the Chief Operating Officer for a human services organization serving the chronically mentally ill in Massachusetts and Connecticut and as a member of the Board and Chair of the Finance Committee for the Hazelden Foundation. I had deep experience witnessing the impact of alcohol and substance abuse on both physical and mental health of many as well as the collateral damage to their families and communities.

Prevention is KEY. I have seen firsthand the urgent need for stronger primary prevention programs and expanded services for Oregon's youth. To that end I support efforts:

- To develop and implement a primary prevention state strategy (HB 3321).
- To 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,

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