

Submitter: Miles Epstein

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB2502

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

Safety Response:

My name is Miles Epstein, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2502, HB 3321, and HB 3375. I was born and raised in Portland, and I am currently an Atmospheric and Climate Science graduate student at the University of Washington. Four years ago, my younger brother Cal, home from his first semester of college, passed away after taking what he thought was a prescription pill but actually made with illicit fentanyl, a drug which he (and the rest of our family) knew little to nothing about. Although there are many approaches to the broader drug problem, this experience has made it clear that early education and prevention can prevent such tragedies, especially among vulnerable youth and young adults. 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,

Miles Epstein