



March 12, 2025  
Support HB 2502, 3321

Co-chairs Prozanski and Kropf and members of the committee, my name is Sarah Lochner. I'm the Executive Director of the Coalition of Local Health Officials (CLHO for short), representing Oregon's 33 local public health departments.

I'm here to testify in support of both of the ADPC study bills – HBs 2502, 3321. Public Health fully supports taking stock of where we are and making recommendations for moving forward. However, we also support the legislature making an investment in addiction primary prevention this session through [HB 2954](#), which has been referred to this committee for consideration and on which we would like to have a hearing and give you a full presentation.

The legislature has neglected to fund primary prevention for decades and we are all now paying the price for that. We cannot continue to fail Oregon's youth session after session, waiting for the perfect plan. We need to begin to invest now – in evidence based addiction primary prevention programs – so that we can begin to dig ourselves out of this epidemic.

All you have to do is look at the situation on the streets to know that whatever little we do have in primary prevention is **NOT ENOUGH**. That much is abundantly clear. Don't get stuck in analysis paralysis, and don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

Today's high schoolers will be off to college or out in the workforce by the time the next legislative session rolls around, money is allocated, and programs are stood up, and we will have missed out on serving those kids. Those kids will be at greater risk of addiction having not had access to primary prevention programs. Every child in Oregon deserves the chance to learn how to make healthy choices, starting today.

I am here with a "Yes, AND" request. Do the study, make the plan - **Yes. AND** invest in addiction primary prevention through HB 2954. Our kids have waited too long already.

Thank you.

