

TO: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

RE: House Bill 2929

Dear Co-Chairs Kropf and Prozanski, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 2929, an important piece of legislation that would give the ADPC the authority to oversee the entire continuum of care for Substance-Use Disorders – from primary prevention, treatment, recovery and harm reduction.

Right now our system is fragmented and siloed, and there is no one entity that can be held accountable for ensuring that our children are properly educated and supported through primary prevention; that people with substance use disorders receive timely treatment, and that long-term recovery is possible for all Oregonians.

In our current system (or lack thereof), our youth have been particularly neglected – both in terms of primary prevention and then with our shameful lack of available treatment for adolescents. My husband and I were forced to make the painful decision to send our son, who has a cannabis-use disorder, out of state for treatment since none was available in Oregon. While we were grateful we could afford it, we first spent agonizing months seeking care in state, a process which highlighted for us how broken – or nonexistent – is the system of care for SUDS in Oregon, particularly for youth.

The ADPC, with its excellent leadership and diverse membership, has proven itself capable of establishing state-wide policies and holding agencies accountable in a coordinated system of care.

HB 2929 is an important move in improving Oregon's approach to substance use disorders. By increasing the ADPC's capacity and accountability, we can establish a more organized, efficient, and accessible care system.

Please support HB 2929 to help create a healthier future for all Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Lee Stewart