

Submitter: Harlo Haynes  
On Behalf Of: 4D Recovery  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

To the Committee,

My name is Harlo Haynes, and I am submitting this in strong support of House Bill 3197. I come before you not only as a concerned citizen of Oregon, but also as someone with a deep personal understanding of the devastating impact of alcohol and drug abuse, particularly on our youth.

For the past two and a half years, I have been in recovery myself. This journey has given me firsthand insight into the challenges of overcoming addiction and rebuilding a life fractured by substance abuse. I've experienced the difficulties, the setbacks, and the immense need for accessible and effective support systems.

In addition to my personal experience, I am also a supervisor for The 4D Adolescent Recovery Center, a peer support program for teenagers struggling with addiction. In this role, I witness daily the struggles these young people face. I see the direct consequences of early exposure to alcohol and drugs: the derailed educations, the broken relationships, the lost dreams. These teens are not just statistics; they are individuals with hopes and goals for their future, impacted by something that is often preventable.

House Bill 3197 proposes a dedicated funding stream for alcohol and drug prevention programs specifically designed for youth. This is critical. Prevention is not just an abstract concept; it is an investment in the future of our state. By providing resources for education, early intervention, and support, we can steer young people away from the path of addiction and towards healthy, productive lives.

The bill's focus on youth programs is particularly important to me. I have seen teenagers struggle to put their lives back together due to the effects that drugs and alcohol have on them. The funds generated by this bill will make a tangible difference in their lives, offering them the support they desperately need, and that is currently so lacking in Oregon.

I urge you to support House Bill 3197. It is an opportunity to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of countless young Oregonians and build a healthier future for our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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