

Submitter: Elizabeth Barsali

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee
On Education

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5515

Recovery high schools and Recovery after school programs have been a life saver for our child. I really mean that. He has even said it himself.

He was in a residential program over the summer of 2023 and then started Grant High School in the fall. On the first day of school someone offered him weed and he immediately knew that he wouldn't survive in a standard high school. Luckily we had Harmony recovery school as an option.

His recovery high school helped him work through his addiction and mental health issues in a group of his peers and with trained staff, some of whom had firsthand experience with addiction. They also provided scholastic make-up programs, geared towards his pace. Most kids in active addiction fall behind in school, as you can imagine, and have a lot of work to make up. He is now at Rivercrest Recovery High School and attends the 4D youth recovery center on a regular basis. It gives him a safe place to hang out, plus have a mentor and attend teen-only meetings (there are very few for youth-only out in the world)

So many people with addiction issues start in their teenage years. I feel that it's most important to treat the issue and give them support when they are most vulnerable and still have so much of their life ahead of them.

Please vote for more funding for recovery programs. They have saved our kid's life.