

Submitter: kenneth Ashbaugh

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety  
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

Hello.

My name is Kenneth Ashbaugh. I am 64 years old, and I was recently released from prison for the third time. Every time was for drug charges that I deserved because I earned them while living a lifestyle of survival as an addict. I am now in recovery for two years, certified as a recovery peer mentor in Oregon and almost have my A.A. in psychology, and I am currently a student at Central Oregon Community College.

I am fortunate that I have not died from drinking and drugs. I started drinking when I was 14, and I started doing drugs at age 16. If I had been able to access resources that this bill will support, I may have been able to be a productive part of society instead of being the drain on resources that I have been. I am now clean only because of the amazing resources available now that I did not have earlier.

Please support House Bill 3197 taxing alcohol to save our kids. They are our future, and if lawmakers had the courage and insight to fund this in the past, I may have been able to save 40 years of a wasted life. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Kenneth Ashbaugh