

Submitter: Joshua Haggans

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

I am a CADC and QMHA-R with teenagers in high school. All but one out of 4 teenagers smoke marijuana and use thc vapes. It has been a serious problem as now thc withdrawals share symptoms of opoid withdrawals.

I have worked with teens in Medford , some young underage mothers, testing positive for fentanyl and not having access to any residential treatment programs. There is no excuse for this to be happening in our society. Treatment is needed desperately. It angers me that an adult somewhere is buying thc products and making them easily available to my kids.

I am excited about this bill. Anyone who cares about the wellbeing of our kids and the future of our state, I would hope also shares this sentiment .

As a SUD professional I would say the amount of teens using thc products, and elicit drugs is likely under-reported. I would say it has become more of a norm for teen drug and alcohol use. About 80% of teens I have assessed with reported marijuana use, reported withdrawal symptoms of sleeplessness, appetite suppression, sometimes nausea, restless leg syndrome, headaches, explosive emotionality, cravings, and tolerance. This is just with thc .

As a person also in recovery, I understand intimately how negatively using at a young age affects outcomes in life. Prison, institutions, death. Mistrust, homelessness, mental health disorders, and suicidal ideation. Not to mention pain and confusion and lack of values.

As a human being, a parent, and a SUD professional....Please pass this bill.

Respect and Gratitude,

Joshua N. Haggans CADC, QMHA-R