

Submitter: Christopher Stuart

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

CHILDREN ARE OUR FUTURE!!!!

My name is Christopher Stuart, and I am getting ready to step into Oregon's Alcohol & Drugs Counseling world. I don't presently work in the field, but have the education (Addiction Counseling at Rogue Community College, Bachelor of Science/ Psychology, Southern Oregon University). I personally struggled with Methamphetamine addiction for over 20 years until I suffered a major hemorrhagic stroke. This incident was what was required to steer my addiction in the opposite direction!

Had I been made aware and educated at a younger age, my past situation may have taken a different path. Knowledge IS POWER!! I strongly agree that we need to educate our youth. Having this traumatic physiological event occur changed every aspect of my life, but I was extremely fortunate. We need programs that make youth aware of the dangers and complications in life from addiction.

Considering the human brain doesn't mature until the mid to late twenties, we need to take a more serious stance towards changing our youths interpretation and outlook regarding addiction before they find out the hard way!!! I totally support House Bill 3197.

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