

The Honorable Members of the Oregon State Legislature State Capitol 900 Court Street NE Salem, OR 97301

March 30th, 2025

Dear Members of the Oregon State Legislature

As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) III, I strongly support HB3197, which allocates millions in funding for youth addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery, including the establishment of Recovery High Schools.

This bill addresses the urgent need for expanded services to support young people struggling with addiction. With a focus on prevention, early intervention, and treatment, HB3197 will provide critical assistance to youth facing substance use challenges. As an LCSW and CADC III with 15 years of experience in adolescent substance use, I have witnessed firsthand the profound impact addiction has on young people, who often face unique challenges such as co-occurring mental health disorders and environmental stressors. This funding will ensure that youth have access to the care and services they need to heal and build a better future.

HB3197 also recognizes the importance of Recovery High Schools, which provide a specialized environment for students in recovery. These schools offer a safe space where young people can continue their education while receiving the support necessary to maintain sobriety. Recovery High Schools have proven effective in reducing relapse rates and helping students succeed both academically and personally.

By allocating millions for youth addiction services and the establishment of Recovery High Schools, HB3197 represents a critical step in addressing youth substance use. It will support both immediate and long-term recovery, helping to break the cycle of addiction for countless young people.

I urge lawmakers to support HB3197 in its efforts to create a healthier, more resilient future for our youth.

Sincerely,

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