

Submitter: Kate Bentley

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety
Response

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

I am writing in support of HB3197. I am a woman in long term recovery and when I was 15 years old I entered treatment for an SUD. I spent 90 days learning about SUDs, recovery and what a life without use could look like. After treatment I returned to use but at 17, I had a realization, thanks to treatment. I recognized what I was experiencing was addiction and because I had been to treatment I knew what to do. I went to meetings and completely changed my life. Today I pay taxes, work in a profession that gives back to the community and live a "normal" life, without addiction present. That would not have been possible had I not been to treatment at 15 yo.

There has never been a time in Oregon history where funding for SUD services for youth has been more important. As you are all aware, SUDs are ravaging our communities and access to treatment services is limited to adults and even more so for our youth. Addiction impacts everyone and intervening when someone is young is a sound investment. Please vote yes on this bill so we can continue moving forward in our state in addressing this crisis. Thank you.