

FROM THE DESK OF

TRACY BRYCE FARMER LCSW PC

03/30/2025

Re: HB 3197

To: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

My name is Tracy Bryce Farmer. I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor operating a private practice in Portland, Oregon. I am writing to urge you to pass HB 3197.

Oregon ranks among the worst states for high levels of alcohol and drug abuse for youth. It doubles down on this failure by being among the worst states for access to substance use disorder treatment for individuals and families. As a social worker and addictions counselor, I see every day the destruction wreaked on Oregon's youth by these systemic deficits as well as the cultural promotion of drug and alcohol use. Between the cannabis industry, our entrepreneurial cottage industry for hallucinogens, and the notorious consequences of Measure 110, youth are hard pressed to avoid catastrophic experimentation with high-risk substances.

Kids are smoking so much high potency legal weed these days that they get psychotic, show up in our ERs and can get lost to their families for years. The meth that is openly used on our streets also causes psychosis, lifelong neurological damage, and terrifying incidents for citizens and first responders. It is widely understood that fentanyl has caused grave injury and death to countless youth and the people who love them.

It's time for common sense approaches to substance use and public health. Please vote Yes on HB 3197 to tax our alcohol which may help people drink less while also providing funding for youth addiction prevention, treatment and recovery services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'TB Farmer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tracy Bryce Farmer LCSW PC
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Certified Alcohol & Drug Counselor
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