

Submitter: goldie ward  
On Behalf Of: 4D Recovery  
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

Dear Chair Prosanski, Chair Kropf, Co-Chair Manning, and members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

My name is Goldie Ward, and I'm a Deflection Outreach Worker at 4D Recovery. I urge you to support HB 3197 to increase funding for youth substance use prevention and treatment.

At 4D Recovery, we work to support adolescents, young adults, and families affected by substance use. We believe in a future where everyone receives the support needed for recovery, and HB 3197 is a critical step toward making that vision a reality.

Oregon faces a shortage of resources to address the youth alcohol and drug crisis. Most individuals with substance use disorders begin using substances before age 18, and Oregon ranks poorly in providing access to addiction and mental health services. Early intervention can prevent long-term consequences like homelessness, incarceration, and overdose. Additionally, for every \$1 spent on prevention, up to \$10 is saved in healthcare and criminal justice costs.

As an individual in recovery, my journey with substance use began at a young age. At just 16, I was arrested for my first DUI, and at that time, I was unable to find any treatment centers that would support me in completing my diversion program due to my age. Looking back, I deeply believe that had I received early intervention, it could have spared me from a multitude of painful and life-altering consequences. By investing in prevention and treatment, we can create stronger, healthier communities and give young people the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Goldie Ward