

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

I am Dr. Nicholas Crapser and I work at 4D Recovery as the Clinical Director. I urge you to support HB 3197 to increase revenue for the prevention and treatment of youth substance use.

At 4D Recovery, our mission is to provide—in partnership with systems, communities, and individuals—comprehensive services that help adolescents, young adults, and families recover from substance use disorders. Our vision is a future where systems, communities, and individuals work together to ensure that all people receive the support needed to find and sustain recovery from substances. HB 3197 is a crucial step toward making this vision a reality by ensuring that Oregon's youth have access to the necessary prevention and treatment services to support long-term recovery.

Oregon lacks adequate resources to address our alcohol and drug crisis, especially for youth—untreated substance use results in harm to individuals, families, communities, and businesses. Additionally:

- Most people who develop a substance use disorder begin using alcohol or drugs before the age of 18.
- In Oregon, youth are more likely than the national average to start drinking or using substances early in their lives.
- Oregon ranks among the worst states for youth access to addiction and mental health services.
- Schools, families, and communities are struggling to manage rising mental health needs, while waitlists for youth treatment programs are long or nonexistent in rural areas.
- Research shows that for every \$1 invested in prevention, up to \$10 is saved in healthcare, criminal justice, and lost productivity.
- Youth who get help early are less likely to experience homelessness, incarceration, or overdose later in life.
- The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission is finalizing a Youth Strategic Plan that will have options for immediate and long-term strategic impacts to address the growing crisis.

As an individual who has been in long-term recovery from substance use disorder since August 28, 2006, I can affirm that had I received appropriate intervention during my teenage years, I might have achieved sobriety well before reaching my 30s.

As a parent of two daughters, I am deeply concerned about the environment and society in which they are growing up. I sincerely hope that neither of them will develop a substance use disorder; however, should that unfortunate situation arise, I pray they have access to the necessary resources to navigate their challenges.

With 17 years of experience in the treatment field, I have observed a concerning trend: the availability of resources has diminished over time, leading to fewer options for referrals and interventions for adolescents. This issue is critically important, as today's youth represent the future of our society.

Our state is not adequately supporting our young people, and increased funding is essential to provide immediate solutions. In my role as Clinical Director at 4D Recovery, I witness the profound effects that access to recovery support can have. By prioritizing investment in prevention and treatment, we not only save lives but also foster stronger, healthier communities where young individuals can flourish.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Dr. Nicholas Crapser
Clinical Director
4D Recovery