

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

My name is Nick Haskell, and I work for The 4th Dimension Recovery as the Deflection Lead in Washington County. 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.

Increasing the availability of substance use disorder treatment services is a topic that I hold close to my heart. SUD treatment is an absolutely essential resource for our community if we want to see a positive trend in the reduction of homelessness, incarceration, and death due to overdose among our teens and young people. I myself am a person who identifies as being in a lifestyle of recovery. I also work as a peer mentor, helping individuals find and sustain their own pathways through their recovery process. I know that increasing funding for SUD treatment by backing HB 3197 will give our youth a much stronger chance at finding the services they need. Becoming a success story in the face of the increasingly difficult challenges is something that each and every person who struggles with SUD deserves. Back when I was in the throes of my addiction, I could have used a more youth-focused approach. It might have helped pull me back into a productive state more quickly. Please take into consideration the profound impact 4D and all of our community partners can have on our future generations to come with your support of HB 3197.

As the Deflection Outreach Lead at 4D Recovery, I see firsthand the transformative impact of access to recovery support. By investing in prevention and treatment, we not only save lives but also build stronger, healthier communities where young people have the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Nick Haskell