

Submitter: Samuel Moats Messing
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3197

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

My name is Samuel Moats-Messing, and I urge you to support HB 3197 to increase revenue for the prevention and treatment of youth substance use.

According to many reports, Oregon lacks resources to address our alcohol and drug crisis, especially for youth—untreated alcohol and drug 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 a provider, I recognize the dire need to invest in adolescent services, our state is failing our youth, and this funding will bring immediate solutions.

Thank you for your consideration,

Respectfully,

Samuel Moats-Messing
Recovery Works NW