

My name is Honey-Rose Butler, 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.

As a Certified Recovery Mentor I have seen generations of people fall to addiction, but gain strength, support, and guidance from programs that develop from treatment, from groups that meet during abuse , that grow into recovery.

Continuing the revenue for programs, treatments, camps, workshops, and meetings will not only save lives, but it will plant seeds in people that will begin to grow and be shared within the families of the ones who have attended, worked, and lived thru the experiences that this bill supports.

Being able to reach people within this field is for the greater good of communities. Having workers that devote one to one time with helping organize or schedule new habits really does make a difference in vulnerable situations. Filling these people with love and support develops a stronger personal foundation for them to be successful in society.