

Testimony in Support of HB 3197 – Jill Pearson, MD FAAP
Joint Committee on Addiction Services and Recovery
March 31, 2025

Dear Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Dr. Jill Pearson**, and I am a board-certified pediatrician with 25 years of experience in caring for newborns and children. I write today in strong support of **HB 3197**, a critical step toward increasing access to youth addiction prevention, treatment, and recovery services in Oregon.

In my practice, I have cared for countless newborns withdrawing from opiates and have witnessed firsthand the struggles young mothers face when trying to access treatment and support. These families are desperate for resources, yet they often encounter insurmountable barriers to care. Additionally, with Oregon's **rising rates of teen homelessness**, we know that the risk of substance use in this population is alarmingly high. Without early intervention, these vulnerable youth face a cycle of addiction that becomes exponentially harder to break.

HB 3197 provides much-needed **funding for evidence-based prevention and treatment programs, training for healthcare professionals, and the development of recovery high schools**—a proven model for helping young people achieve sobriety while continuing their education. This bill represents a proactive, long-term investment in our youth and the health of our communities.

As a pediatrician, I firmly believe that prevention is the most effective strategy we have. Providing early access to **comprehensive, compassionate, and evidence-based care** will not only save lives but also reduce the long-term societal and financial costs of addiction. I urge you to pass HB 3197 and ensure that Oregon's youth have the resources they need to thrive.

Thank you for your time and commitment to addressing this urgent public health issue.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Pearson, FAAP
Board-Certified Pediatrician
doc.pwpconsulting@protonmail.com

541-580-0279