

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

My name is Aaron Burrell, and I work at 4D Recovery as a Peer Mentor, and I urge you to support HB 3197 to increase revenue for the prevention and treatment of youth substance use. We all know that most drug use curiosity begins between the ages of 13 and 17 in most circumstances sadly enough. Brad, Sarah, Milton, Eric, Becky, and Craig, these are the names of children that were lost within my circle of friends, clients, or family. When I was growing up there was a select few people that I knew were using opioids. I can look around this room of people today and I would bet that almost every single person here has known someone, or your child has known someone, or your friend has known someone who has OD'd from fentanyl or these "blues" that have been destroying the communities we are trying to raise our kids in. All the organizations represented before you today all have overlapping missions on this battlefield, I believe full heartedly that it is to save our kids and protect them from following down similar mistakes that we have of drug abuse. Oregon leads the United States in how much increase in fentanyl deaths at 67% increase from the year before. I have joined 4D Recovery because we are more focused on teens and young adults than other organizations I researched. Help us continue this fight and make youth treatment and prevention services more accessible in the state that needs it. Lastly, the list of names I mentioned earlier were only deaths from a single person's circle of influence, and that was only from this past 30 days. Thank you for your time.