

April 2, 2025

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

My name is Drew Anderson, and I work at 4D Recovery as a Certified Adolescent Drug & Alcohol Counselor. I am writing this letter to 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.

I'm sure you are aware of the current situation, but some facts bear repeating:

- 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.

I have been in recovery for almost 13 years now. In 2023 I made a decision to change careers and become a Drug & Alcohol Counselor. In 2024 I received certification from the state of Oregon as a CADC-1 and QMHA-1. I am passionate about recovery and believe absolutely that recovery is possible – given the opportunity. Recovery literally saved my life and allowed me to rebuild my family, and become a contributor to our community.

As a Counselor 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew Anderson". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Drew" and "Anderson" being capitalized and prominent.

Drew Anderson, CADC-1, QMHA-1