

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

My name is Marsha Bearface, 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.

Add your story here...

My name is Marsha Bearface, I've been in recovery for 6years+. I grew up with an abusive father, if my sister and I had to watch/ hear him beating our mother, if we tried to help he would then threaten to beat us up. When I was around 10yrs old my mom moved us to California where we lived for less than a year, moved to Oregon then back to South Dakota. I realized my mom moved us around every year whether it was in the same town or state.

I started drinking and smoking marijuana during high school. started getting arrested for several DUI's. I completed inpatient treatment in 96' then I took my sons and myself to Oregon. I was sober for about a year. I stopped again in 2011 starting with the vicious cycle of being an alcoholic again. My sons started abusing alcohol and drugs in high school. I'm proud to say both of my sons are in recovery and living an oxford life now. One of my sons is cirrhosis now and grateful for living. They gave him 2 months and he's going on 2 years. In short I have lived with alcohol in my life whether it be my grandmother, father, sister, sons, or myself. Now we live one day at a time and we thank the creator!! Thank you

Marsha Bearface