

To: The Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

RE: The amendment to create an 8% sales tax on the retail sale of alcohol.

Position: **I oppose.**

Dear Committee,

On March 7th I sent an email to Rep. Sanchez asking two questions about her proposed amendment.

1. Do these proposed abuse prevention programs already exist and what is their budget and success rate?
2. Why do you not include hard alcohol and mixed drinks on this tax?

Rep. Sanchez's response was from Mr. Jon Pugsley, her legislative director. His response was to send me the amendment and failed to answer my questions. I am the first to admit that I don't speak legislatese. But nowhere in her amendment did I find the answers to my questions.

In her report on Page 26, she writes. That:

OHA has not collected any data regarding our current recovery asset usage rates from which to determine whether more resources are needed and /or where they are needed.

And on Page 29, she identifies that we are the 3rd most expensive state to obtain treatment and we are in the top 5 in per capita tax dollars spent. "We need to identify inefficiencies before adding more resources."

After combing my way through the report, I could find no answers to my first question about the existing programs, and the success rate. If you cannot answer the question: "What is the rate of abuse of alcohol by minors." Then you are unable to actually work towards an efficient solution. Rep. Sanchez's solution feels enthusiastic and misguided. This feels like a repeat of Measure 110. We blithely go forward with a misguided solution when we don't have a clue about how to treat the problem, nor the tools to treat the problem. OLCC works hard and is to be commended in their role of regulating and enforcing the alcohol industry. I know of no other State Agency that is actually willing to talk with the businesses they regulate in order to make sure we know the rules. And to have Rep. Sanchez propose a "**Deus Ex Machina**" solution show how little real information we have about the problem.

Sincerely,
Thomas Schaad
610 SW Alder
Dundee, OR 97115