

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, Vice-Chair Wallan, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Darcey Edwards, and I am the State Representative for House District 31. Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today.

This bill is incredibly personal to me. My son, suffering from a battle with substance use disorder, ended up on the street. I lost communication with him and did not know where he was. Even more frightening, I didn't know if he was alive. I speak from experience when I say that this is a devastating psychological place to be for any parent.

However, I am not a quitter. I don't give up easily. I ended up walking the streets of Portland, determined to reconnect with my son. Throughout this process, I came across a program run by the Portland Police. Officers would encourage young adults on the street to reach out to their parents. Inspired by this, I began handing out flyers asking my son to simply "Call your mom."

This legislation is my attempt to bring that same spirit of connection to families across the state.

After introducing the original bill, I heard valid concerns about involving law enforcement in such a sensitive process. In response, I submitted an amendment.

This amendment shifts the responsibility from police to behavioral health and rehabilitation organizations. These providers would be able to securely access and pass along messages from parents to individuals currently in their care.

The goal is simple: to open the door for communication between parents and children struggling with substance use or mental health challenges.

Participation is entirely voluntary. No parent is required to send a message, and no individual is required to read the message or respond. I fully acknowledge that some people have very real and legitimate reasons for staying distant from their families.

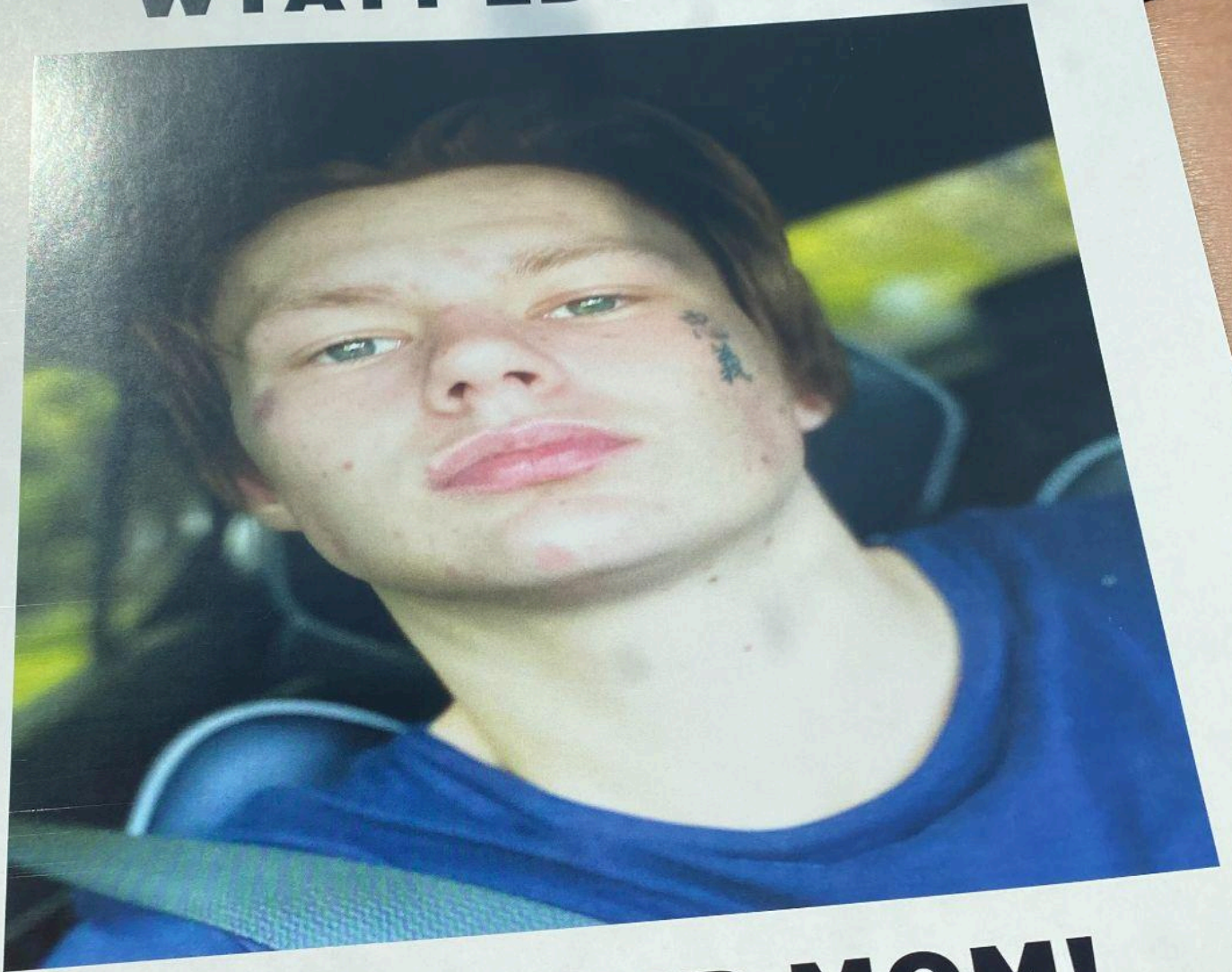
Eventually, I was lucky enough to reconnect with my son—but the pain of not knowing where he was or whether he was safe was unbearable.

This program is about giving parents a chance. A chance to reach out, even if it leads nowhere. This program is about giving parents hope.

I've named it the "Call Your Mom Program" in honor of my son and everything we've been through together.

I hope we can continue this conversation and take this concept statewide. Thank you.

**WYATT EDWARDS**



**CALL YOUR MOM!**