

**DEB PATTERSON
STATE SENATOR
DISTRICT 10**



OREGON STATE SENATE

9 March 2025

Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Chairs Prozanski and Kropf, Vice-Chair Mannix, and Members of the Joint Committee:

My name is Deb Patterson, and I am the State Senator for District 10. I am writing to voice my support for House Bill 2954, which would fund Primary Prevention in every Oregon community through local public health departments and tribal governments. This bill is a critical step toward addressing Oregon's substance use crisis by investing in community-driven prevention strategies that help stop addiction before it starts.

For too long, primary prevention has been overlooked as part of our substance use response. We know that programs that help young people build confidence, strengthen their decision-making skills, and stay connected to supportive adults are effective in preventing addiction. However, these programs often lack the necessary resources to operate. HB 2954 would change that by providing \$25 million per biennium to ensure every county and tribe can employ at least one full-time prevention specialist.

HB 2954 is not just about funding staff—it's about investing in a healthier future. Local communities are ready to lead. With your support, they'll have the tools to do so. I appreciate your consideration and urge you to support and pass HB 2954.

Sincerely,
Deb Patterson