



VANESSA CORNWALL

Intergovernmental Relations Officer
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DATE: April 9, 2025
TO: Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response
FROM: Pat Farr, Lane County Commissioner
RE: HB 2954, Relating to Substance Abuse Prevention

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

Good evening, Co-Charis Prozanski and Kropf and members of the committee, I am Pat Farr, fourth term Lane County Commissioner. I am in my third year as chair of the Local Government Advisory Committee to OHA. I served ten years as Eugene City Council. I enjoyed working closely with then Representative Floyd Prozanski when I served in the Legislatures alongside him as State Representative from HD 14.

I am here today representing Oregon's county governments to urge your support for HB 2954. County Boards of Commissioners are the Local Public Health Authority, with the duty to enforce Oregon's public health laws, adopt a local plan and provide oversight of state and county shared services.

Counties partner with the Oregon Public Health Division to provide services that help our communities thrive—like communicable disease prevention and response; health promotion like maternal and child home health visits and substance abuse prevention; and environmental health services like monitoring water and food safety and disaster preparedness.

Oregon spends the bulk of our substance use prevention dollars on tobacco and we demonstrate great success with our tobacco prevention programming. In comparison, we spend only \$5m statewide for alcohol and drug abuse prevention at a time when our children are exposed to a cheap, plentiful supply of dangerous substances, and a culture that has normalized their use. Oregon needs an immediate investment to implement proven youth prevention programs.

Our local prevention specialists do amazing work.

HB 2954 will make sure there is at least on substance abuse prevention staff in every county in Oregon dedicated to alcohol and drug prevention work with their local schools, setting all of Oregon's kids on a path to make safe choices and be resistant to substance abuse.

In Lane County, we take this partnership seriously and will use this support effectively.

AOC asks for your support for HB 2954, and we thank you for taking the time today to consider this request.

**ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED BY VANESSA CORNWALL, LANE COUNTY
INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS OFFICER**