



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Lincoln County

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www.co.lincoln.or.us/1005/Public-Health

April 11th 2025

Dear Chairs Kropf and Prozanski, and members of the Joint Committee on Addictions and Community Safety Response,

Re: Support HB 2954 – A Smart Investment in Oregon’s Future

Lincoln County Public Health urges you to support HB 2954, which will bring vital funding for Addiction Primary Prevention to every community in Oregon through local public health departments and tribal partners.

The Problem: We’re Spending Billions Cleaning Up a Crisis We Do Little to Prevent

Alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs kill over 12,000 Oregonians each year. Yet just 6% of Oregon’s substance use budget goes to prevention—and most of that is limited to tobacco via Measure 108.

The approximately \$5 million in federal prevention funding that Oregon receives is stretched across 36 counties, 9 tribes, and 9 community organizations—hardly enough to hire one full-time prevention specialist in most counties. Meanwhile, substance use costs Oregon taxpayers an estimated \$6 billion per year.

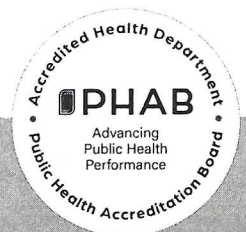
The Solution: HB 2954 Funds What Works

HB 2954 allocates \$25 million per biennium so every county and tribe can hire at least one full-time prevention specialist. These experts deliver proven, cost-effective programs that reduce youth substance use by intervening before use ever begins.

We’ve seen the success of such programs in Deschutes and Linn counties, where prevention programs have delivered long-term reductions in drug use, aggression, and delinquency among students. This is a nationwide model—Oregon has the chance to lead.



Lincoln County Public Health
a division of Health and Human Services



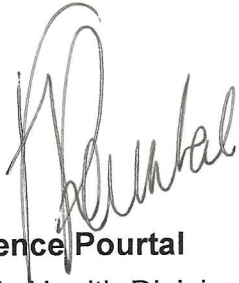
Primary Prevention Works—and It Pays Off

The allocation of funding towards prevention is not charity. It's smart governance. Prevention saves lives and reduces long-term costs to health care, education, and public safety systems. We've seen it work with tobacco, traffic safety, and teen pregnancy. Addiction prevention is no different.

The Ask

Please vote YES on HB 2954 to make a meaningful, measurable investment in Oregon's future. This is our chance to change course—from reacting to addiction to preventing it.

The time is now. Thank you.



Florence Poutal

Public Health Division Director



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