



May 16, 2025

Joint Committee on Addiction & Community Safety Response

Re: Support for HB 3631

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **strong support of House Bill 3631**, which affirms the critical role of local prevention efforts in supporting youth mental health, substance use prevention, and community safety across Oregon.

My name is Jessica King, and I am the CEO of **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley**, serving youth and families across **Josephine and Jackson Counties**. For decades, our organization has been a trusted partner in delivering high-quality programs, including prevention-focused programming that supports the health and well-being of young people, in close collaboration with county partners, schools, and local service providers.

We see the impact of prevention every day. From afterschool mentoring and healthy lifestyle education to evidence-based curriculum and youth-led leadership programs, our Club provides a safe, supportive environment that helps young people build skills, make positive choices, and avoid high-risk behaviors.

Our prevention services are aligned with county prevention goals and supported by strong partnerships with Josephine County Prevention Services, the Health Department, Systems of Care and local coalitions. Together, we focus on:

- **Substance Use Prevention:** Delivering evidence-based programming like *Positive Action* and *SMART Moves* to educate youth about the risks of substance use and help them develop decision-making and resistance skills. Not only do we run age-appropriate sessions of *SMART Moves* in the Clubhouse afterschool, we also lead these 10-day sessions in every 6th grade classroom in both Grants Pass School District 7 and Three Rivers School District.
- **Mental Health Promotion:** Providing trauma-informed care, social-emotional learning, and daily opportunities for connection with trusted adults in a safe, consistent space.
- **Youth Engagement:** Empowering youth through leadership opportunities, service learning, and peer mentoring programs that promote self-worth, youth voice, purpose, and community connection.

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- **Family Support & Outreach:** Hosting family nights, distributing resources, and creating opportunities for parent engagement to strengthen protective factors at home.

Prevention is not just a program—it's a **lifeline** for many of the youth we serve. In Josephine County, where we face high rates of poverty, trauma, and youth disconnection, prevention must be a **priority**. HB 3631 recognizes that prevention is not optional—it's **essential** for building healthier communities.

By reinforcing the importance of prevention and supporting funding stability and coordination, **HB 3631 would allow Clubs like ours to grow efforts and determine the potential for strengthening infrastructure in youth-serving organizations like ours across the state.** It would provide communities with the tools and resources needed to sustain evidence-based, community-driven prevention efforts that reach youth where they are—especially in rural and underserved communities like ours.

We respectfully urge your support for HB 3631 to protect and expand prevention services that are changing lives in Josephine County and across the state.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,

Jessica King, CEO **Boys & Girls Clubs of the Rogue Valley**

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