



May 16, 2025

Testimony in Support of HB 3631
Oregon Alliance of Boys & Girls Clubs

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **House Bill 3631**.

We do this by working hand-in-hand with schools, families, and community partners to implement **evidence-based prevention strategies** that foster healthy development, build resilience, and respond to the realities facing youth across Oregon.

Our Clubs are not peripheral to this work—we are **central to the success of community-based prevention infrastructure**. In regions like **Jackson and Josephine Counties**, our Clubs have become the **operational backbone** for local prevention efforts. We provide the physical space, trusted relationships, and daily programming that bring policy into practice—effectively and equitably.

We have also engaged directly with the **Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) Prevention Subcommittee**. When the committee released its **draft Prevention Strategic Priorities for 2026–2030** less than 2 months ago, we were there to offer input and support. We see a strong, clear alignment between the Commission’s framework and our on-the-ground work across Oregon.

The message is unmistakable: **Oregon must invest in a coordinated, well-resourced prevention system that bridges K-12 education and community organizations like ours**. This is not a future need—it is a present necessity. And the infrastructure already exists to act now.

As highlighted in the ADPC Prevention Subcommittee’s spring meetings, stakeholders emphasized the importance of **building cross-sector capacity**, supporting culturally responsive prevention programs, and ensuring services reach all young people—**not just those already in crisis**. HB 3631 directly addresses these priorities by:

- **Investing in upstream prevention strategies** that reduce youth substance use and mental health challenges;
- **Building sustainable partnerships** between schools, families, and community providers;
- And **creating statewide coordination and accountability** to track outcomes and reduce service gaps.

As Representative Mannix referenced during the public hearing, this investment could provide valuable insight into future investment opportunities- especially the critical value-add that our network of Boy & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, camps and afterschool programs bring to this effort.

We have a **proven ability to leverage private and philanthropic funding to amplify state investments. Boys & Girls Club nationally demonstrates a \$10.32 return on investment**—every dollar of public support through HB 3631 can be significantly extended through private partnerships, local matching funds, and in-kind contributions, allowing us to scale high-impact prevention programs further and faster than public systems alone.

This ability to braid funding across systems not only strengthens outcomes—it ensures cost-effective, community-rooted delivery of services to youth who need it most.

Prevention is most effective when it is proactive, comprehensive, and community-driven. HB 3631 honors that vision by resourcing the very partnerships we know must exist to advance state prevention efforts. This bill is not only a smart investment—it's a necessary step toward ensuring Oregon's youth can thrive in safe, supportive environments.

I urge you to pass HB 3631 and help build the foundation for a healthier future for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your time and leadership.

Sincerely,
Bethany Thrasher

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