

March 21, 2013

Memorandum

To: Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee of Ways and Means
From: Judy Cushing, Chief Executive Officer
RE: Liquor Agent Compensation in HB 5023

Lines for Life, formerly Oregon Partnership, is a non-profit dedicated to preventing substance abuse and suicide. We have long supported the control state system for liquor in Oregon. We believe this is the best way to responsibly control the retailing of liquor and to minimize the negative effects that can accrue to individuals and society from misuse of alcohol.

We are pleased to add our support to increasing the agent compensation line item in HB 5023. It has been eleven long years since the current 8.88% was increased and since then the cost to operate these stores has steadily increased. Oregon needs to invest in our front line stores to ensure they are able to meet consumer demand, modernize their infrastructure, train and keep quality employees and to offer a modern and efficient shopping experience for consumers.

We don't want to look back in the next several years and to realize that an appropriate investment in Oregon's liquor stores beginning in the 2013-15 biennium could have helped prevent a total dismantling of our control state system. This investment is wise and timely. We urge your support.

Thank you for your consideration.



Judy Cushing
CEO