



OREGON PARTNERSHIP

lines for life

Preventing Substance Abuse & Suicide

MEASURE: HB 2702
EXHIBIT: 5
H BUSINESS & LABOR
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SUBMITTED BY: Tom Paricer

March 8, 2013

Representative Margaret Doherty, Chair
House Business and Labor Committee
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Support for HB 2702

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

Lines for Life, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing substance abuse, strongly supports HB 2702.

The availability of inexpensive, high alcohol content products is a real threat to underage drinkers who are highly price sensitive and very likely to drink only to become intoxicated.

Beverages in this category are quickly intoxicating, which make them especially dangerous for inexperienced underage drinkers. Studies clearly show that the earlier youth begin to use alcohol, the more likely they are to have a lifetime of substance abuse issues.

The proximity of this area to underage nightclubs gives teens an opportunity to engage in "shoulder tapping" – a way of getting adults to buy them alcohol. Combined with the availability of high quality "fake I.D." it becomes a recipe for disaster for underage drinkers.

Highly intoxicating and cheap alcoholic beverages are also problematic for chronic street drinkers. Serious neighborhood safety and livability issues arise when these products are easily available to this vulnerable population.

This legislation will clarify that the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) has the authority to create and implement Alcohol Impact Areas (AIA) in Oregon. Furthermore, it will permit OLCC, the City of Portland, and other local stakeholders to move forward with the rulemaking process to create an AIA in Old Town, an area particularly impacted by high highly alcoholic and minimally priced liquors.

Lines for Life urges your support of this important legislation.