

March 20, 2013

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

Re: Support for HB 2008

Dear Chair Doherty and Members of the Committee:

Lines for Life, a nonprofit dedicated to preventing substance abuse, strongly supports HB 2008 as it would go a long way to promote public safety, especially in two areas.

In order to be effective, the OLCC needs clearly defined legislation that empowers it to close down or at least temporarily suspend the licenses of certain vendors. Consider the case of Portland Club 915, where the operator was afraid of his clientele and it took a fatal shooting to close it down. The OLCC had reports of 19 serious incidents at the club, including shootings, fights, altercations and drugs. The OLCC's hands were tied due to a lack of clear legislation enabling them to shut down an establishment, even temporarily. This applies to many other notorious bars as well, but it shouldn't take a homicide to prevent a threat to public safety.

It is also time to bring balance back to the OLCC. For over 30 years there has been a representative of the alcohol industry on the commission, yet no one representing public safety or prevention. This is clearly wrong and needs to be rectified. Otherwise you have a fox in the henhouse.

In summary, Lines for Life supports this bill because:

- It fosters healthier, safer communities where young people can thrive
- It promotes balance by ensuring a public safety perspective will be included in the OLCC policy making process.
- It establishes clear and consistent standards, allowing the OLCC to more effectively to address problems with bars.
- It gives the police the ability to close a venue for up to 72 hours to ensure safety of the neighborhood residents after a serious crime.

Lines for Life urges your support of this important legislation.