



OREGON HIDTA PROGRAM

HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA

June 3, 2013

Representative Jim Weidner
900 Court St. NE, H-387
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Representative Weidner,

I am writing to let you know that I have reviewed HB 3422 and using my professional discernment in analyzing the provisions of the bill which specified for enhanced sentencing of people who are convicted of supplying (manufacturing or delivering) drugs which resulted in a user's death or serious physical injury, I advise your support and adoption of this important legislation.

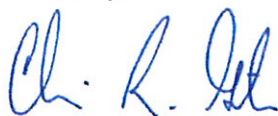
The most recent data available from the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office indicates that drug-related deaths have risen substantially statewide since 2000, with fatalities rising 20 percent from 2010 to 2011. Deaths related to heroin use reflected the highest number of fatalities, increasing by 59 percent from 2010 to 2011. The second highest number of deaths was related to methamphetamine, and cocaine-related deaths also rose in the last year by 65 percent from 2010 to 2011.

As the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office data illustrates, heroin and oxycodone are not the only controlled substances that lead to the unnecessary deaths of hundreds of Oregonians each year; cocaine and methamphetamine both Schedule II controlled substances included in HB 3422 are also responsible.

I believe that considering only heroin and oxycodone for enhanced sentencing of drug traffickers whose manufacturing and distribution activities lead to the death or serious physical injury of users doesn't address the entirety or severity of the increasing problem. In my opinion, the fact that HB 3422 includes all Schedule I, II and III controlled substances creates a more appropriate policy.

Thank you for your inquiry and for allowing me to weigh in on this very important issue.

Sincerely,



Chris Gibson, Director
Oregon HIDTA Program