



MOTHERS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
Lane County Chapter
c/o Lane County Victim Impact Panel
125 E. 8th Ave Rm 400. Eugene 97401
Ph (541) 343-8115 www.maddeugene.org

March 18, 2015

TO: House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Cate Duke, Board Member
MADD Lane County Chapter

RE: **HOUSE BILL 2347 - SUPPORT**

Thank you Chair Barker, and members of the committee, for the opportunity to present testimony on this important topic. Every year thousands of people are killed in impaired driving crashes. MADD's mission is "... to end drunk driving, help fight drugged driving, support the victims of these violent crimes and prevent underage drinking." MADD supports House Bill 2347 as one more step in the process to achieve their goal of "No More Victims."

Currently, Oregon requires ignition interlock devices for all offenders convicted of DUII, as well as those entered into diversion agreements. Unfortunately, a loophole exists that allows a drunk driver to wait out the suspension period without ever installing the ignition interlock device. This is a dangerous situation as it is estimated that between 50-75% of people continue to drive on a suspended license.

A national study conducted by the NCBI (National Center for Biotechnology Information) found that approximately 25% of those drivers involved in fatal DUII crashes in 2007, with BAC levels in excess of .15%, were driving on a suspended license. If ignition interlock devices had been in place on the vehicles driven by these impaired drivers, many lives could have been spared. Every life lost has a cost. According NHTSA, the cost of just one additional DUII fatality is approximately \$3.6 million; the cost of one additional serious injury is approximately \$108,000, plus the lifelong emotional toll on the victims of these heartbreaking crimes.

Requiring impaired drivers to comply with the requirement to install an interlock device before driving privileges are restored will help save lives. It is an idea strongly supported by the citizens of Oregon; a recent ODOT survey shows 83% of Oregonians support the use of these devices. The CDC finds that requiring or highly incentivizing interlock devices for all drunk drivers reduces recidivism by 67%. This bill makes sense for the safety of all citizens who travel our roadways. Please consider the lives that could be spared by closing this loophole.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving urges you forward House Bill 2347.