

**KATE BROWN  
GOVERNOR**



Chair Gelser and the members of the Senate Committee on Human Services and Early Childhood: thank you so much for setting a hearing today for Senate Bill 951.

I am sorry I cannot testify before you on behalf of Governor Brown today--please do not interpret my absence as a lack of support for the bill. Before I dive into the reasons we need this bill to pass, I wanted to thank Senator Monnes-Anderson and Representative Greenlick for their help in sponsoring this much needed bill.

The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission is a commission with great potential that we have not been able to realize. The simplest reason we have not is a lack of a quorum. In addition to that, the enabling statutes were quite long and had requirements that could not be met due to conflict with federal codes. The Commission itself has many passionate members who deserve better.

As we struggled with how to fix a struggling commission, I looked to another commission in my portfolio--the Criminal Justice Commission. The CJC is a well-respected, small commission that does a great deal of work on policy matters. I hope the ADPC will have a similar reputation in the building, and so you will see similarities in the bill before you today and the enabling statutes of the CJC (though admittedly the two missions are quite different).

At its best, the ADPC could inform this body about inefficiencies and redundancies in state government as it relates to prevention of alcohol and drug abuse as well as treatment programs. It could be looking at agency budgets to see where and how our precious state resources are being spent, and making recommendations about how we could be doing business better and smarter.

By passing this bill out of committee today, we will be one step closer to achieving the goals that we want to see the ADPC accomplish.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heidi Moawad, Policy Advisor to Governor Kate Brown