

Dear Co-chairs and members of the committee,

My name is Carol Greene and I am a certified substance abuse counselor in Umatilla County and member of AFSCME Local 3742. I have been working with individuals in the drug court system for 13 years and have been working in the field much longer than that. Thank you, for this opportunity to share the importance of funding substance abuse treatment programs.

Many of the people that I work with didn't have a fair start to begin with and don't have the skills to live a healthy life and without mind altering substances. They live in fear and many have a long history of physical and mental abuse and homelessness and have no supports and don't know how to find the resources to improve their lives and become contributing members of our society. In our program, they are able to use community resources, by helping them get their GED, get into college, find residential treatment and other recovery programs. We connect them to housing, employment and keep their families connected and stable. We surround them with a support team that gives the skills to stay clean and sober.

Through all of this education, resources and supports many of the clients we work with are able to turn their lives around and live a life of recovery. Some even choose to come into this line of work too and give to help others.

My drive is seeing these success stories and knowing that they now have the tools to keep succeeding. Cutting substance abuse treatment programs through corrections as well as access to the Oregon Health Plan will only create the need for more expensive emergency health and human services and put a strain on our child welfare system as well.

Please find a way to raise revenue and not make cuts to these crucial services.

Thank you.