



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII

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TO: Ways and Means – Transportation and Economic Development Subcommittee

FROM: Chuck Hayes, Chair
Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII

SUBJECT: Support for HB 2638-A

Dear Members of the Committee:

House Bill 2638-A is a critical step towards strengthening Oregon's DUII laws and getting to the heart of reducing DUII recidivism and improving treatment outcomes for DUII offenders, many of whom struggle with substance abuse issues.

HB 2638-A is the product of a bipartisan interim workgroup that recognized the gaps in Oregon's laws and systems as they relate to Ignition Interlock Devices (IID's). This workgroup, led by Representatives Olson and Greenlick, pulled together prosecutors, treatment providers, courts, DMV staff, defense attorneys, the Governor's Advisory Committee (GAC) on DUII, and IID providers, as well as colleagues from Washington State. Across the board, the workgroup identified significant problems including a lack of oversight and standards for IID providers and installers, a very low compliance rate of those offenders required to install IIDs, and a resulting gap in ensuring public safety on Oregon roadways in the face of increasing fatalities from impaired driving crashes.

This workgroup looked at Washington State's effective model for IID oversight and the group recommended adapting much of their structure to fit Oregon's needs. It is important to note the support given to this effort by the IID providers themselves. They recognize the need for strong management oversight and industry accountability and were an integral part of crafting this bill.

Oregon's IID laws are robust in their intentions, but have lacked the necessary oversight, coordination and communication that keep them from maximizing their effectiveness. Currently, Oregon laws do not provide for any IID vendor or installer management or standards for operation, how they report data, how and when they are inspected, acceptable standards for customer service, and how they share information with entities like the courts, prosecutors, treatment providers and others. There is little accountability as to when and if a person installs an IID so as to provide a safety net to the community against individuals who chose to continue to drink and drive impaired. The intent behind the use of IIDs is falling short with the lack of rules and oversight.

Moreover, the DUII offender lacks protection as well in this system. As a customer and client, they need to be assured of the quality and standards of the service they are purchasing as a condition of their diversion agreements and convictions. The offender needs to be provided the best chance of success and recovery in this system. Subjecting them to questionable business practices without oversight erodes both confidences in the system and the likelihood of a successful outcome.

The GAC on DUII strongly supports HB2638-A and the efforts to improve DUII offender accountability, treatment effectiveness, reduced DUII recidivism and the resulting lives that will be saved on Oregon's streets and highways.

Sincerely,

Chuck Hayes
Chair, GAC-DUII