



Testimony for House Committee on Health Care, Feb. 5, 2018  
House Bill 4143 (Submitted Feb. 2, 2018)

My name is Tim Hartnett. I am Executive Director of CODA, Inc., a not-for-profit behavioral health agency that serves more than 4,000 patients a year in 15 programs in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties. I am also a member of the Governor's Opioid Epidemic Task Force.

The scale of the opioid epidemic is not at all abstract any more. We have all been touched by it in our families and neighborhoods, at work, school or our faith communities.

All of you know the seriousness of this problem, which along with killing thousands of people of all ages from overdoses and chronic health conditions associated with substance use disorders, is also forcing us to dramatically change the way we deliver medical care, including Emergency Room services.

House Bill 4143 is an important part of these urgently needed changes.

Among other things it will:

- Improve access to Medication-Assisted Treatment, a proven and affordable means of helping people with substance use disorders;
- Fund pilot programs to improve connections to treatment in four counties, with an emphasis on connecting Recovery Mentors to people who are recovered from overdoses in Emergency Rooms. The mentors in turn will connect these patients with treatment programs and supports.
- Launch a study of addiction-treatment payment/reimbursement systems to enhance access to substance use disorder treatment; and
- Further enhance provider registration in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

These steps are important, and they are a starting point. We have a long way to go, but the people of Oregon are suffering; they are rightfully demanding leadership in this public health crisis. HB 4143 is an excellent foundation for the work that lies ahead for all of us.



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