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Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 11:12 AM
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Cc: Sen Boles <Sen.DenycBoles@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Boquist <Sen.BrianBoquist@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Findley <Sen.LynnFindley@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Gelser <Sen.SaraGelser@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Knopp <Sen.TimKnopp@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen MonnesAnderson <Sen.LaurieMonnesAnderson@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Steiner Hayward <Sen.ElizabethSteinerHayward@oregonlegislature.gov>; Sen Taylor <Sen.KathleenTaylor@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Barreto <Rep.GregBarreto@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Bynum <Rep.JanelleBynum@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Evans <Rep.PaulEvans@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Moore-Green <Rep.RaquelMooreGreen@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Salinas <Rep.AndreaSalinas@oregonlegislature.gov>; Rep Stark <Rep.DuaneStark@oregonlegislature.gov>; Mike Marshall <mike@oregonrecovers.org>
Subject: Serious Concerns RE: Allowing Alcohol Home Delivery

Co-Chair Roblan, Co-Chair Holvey and Committee Members,

It has come to our attention that the Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association (ORLA) met with the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response yesterday and recommended that the state allow home delivery, take out, and curbside pick up of mixed drinks, beer, wine, and hard alcohol in response to the outbreak. While I understand the huge economic toll that COVID-19 is taking on our restaurant industry, increasing access to alcohol in a time when people are forced to isolate is only going to exasperate our overburdened healthcare system.

With the vast majority of recovery support groups closed indefinitely, and our hospitals about to be overrun with patients, arbitrarily increasing access to alcohol without looking at the public health consequences is terrible public policy. We know that alcohol consumption severely suppresses the immune system ([especially with respiratory illness](#)) and increasing alcohol availability results in higher healthcare costs. Furthermore, increased access to alcohol poses an acute risk to our communities in a time of crisis because our citizens are experiencing heightened levels of anxiety and isolation. This is the worst possible time to promote alcohol consumption and we anticipate this policy will increase the burden on our emergency departments. People in

early recovery and in active addiction no longer have resources available to them like AA and NA meetings. Additionally many of these people are now struggling financially. Adding the home delivery of alcohol into the mix will undoubtedly push many to relapse and into our emergency rooms.

It's my understanding that this policy is being considered by the OLCC today. Oregon Recovers and our allies in the healthcare industry strongly oppose any policies that will result in worsening our addiction crisis, especially in the midst of an unprecedented public health emergency like COVID-19. We ask that the Joint Special Committee on Coronavirus Response oppose this policy proposal.

Best,

Andrew Swanson

Policy and Advocacy Director

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