



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Liquor Control Commission

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The Honorable Governor Brown:

Oregon's Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) are unified in support for increasing resources for persons who need alcohol and drug addiction treatment services. Demand for these resources is growing in Oregon and a concerted, statewide effort to expand these services will benefit thousands of addicted Oregonians and their impacted families.

Members of both commissions fully appreciate the deep and abiding concern you and the Oregon Legislature have to address this crisis. The Commissions, of course, serve as advisors to the Governor and Legislature; if ever there was a time for our unified voices to amplify our advice in chorus, now it is that time. Oregon's rates of addiction and related alcohol and drug dependency and mortality are outpacing other states. While the explanation for this comparative disproportionate rise is not fully understood, we agree that our state has problem unique from our neighboring states.

The ADPC and the OLCC ask you and the legislature to prioritize drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services as described in the State's Strategic Plan in the 2021-2023 budget, including funding for evidence-based drug treatment services that have an impact on reducing the dependency and addiction rate. This overshadowed but ongoing public health crisis warrants a significant response by our state's leaders, even in a time of unprecedented public health and economic distress caused by the global pandemic.

The OLCC and the ADPC are unified in collaborating on common solutions to address the addiction issue within our respective realms of influence, although guided by different and sometimes divergent directions set by Oregon Revised Statutes. We are unified as Oregonians and together share common concerns: ensuring no sales or service of alcohol to minors or intoxicated persons, focusing efforts on alcohol and drug prevention among minors, and encouraging responsible use of alcohol and cannabis products by adults. For many of these reasons, ADPC has identified the important role OLCC plays in pursuit of their newly published strategic plan.

Both Commissions thank you for your attention to the important matter of drug and alcohol treatment issues and appreciate our opportunity to express this as a priority for the missions of our respective Commissions.

Sincerely,

Paul Rosenbaum (Nov 18, 2020 14:42 PST)

Chair Paul Rosenbaum
Oregon Liquor Control Commission

Anthony Jordan (Nov 23, 2020 10:21 PST)

Chair Anthony Jordan
Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission