



A project of the Alano Club of Portland

January 24, 2019

To: Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Rep. Rob Nosse, Vice-Chair
Rep. Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair
CC: Members of the House Health Care Committee
Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 2638-1**

Oregon Recovers is a coalition of people in recovery from addiction, our friends and family and the providers who provide critical and valued prevention, treatment and recovery support. The mission of Oregon Recovers is to transform the existing fractured and incomplete addiction recovery system into a recovery-based, continuum of care which recognizes addiction as a chronic disease requiring a lifetime of support.

As Governor Brown publicly announced in March of last year, Oregon is locked in the throes of an unprecedented health crisis. Oregon has the 4th highest addiction rate in the country and ranks 50th in access to treatment. As a result, five people die each day from alcohol-related deaths and we lose 1 or 2 people each day from drug overdoses. The combined annual total of this carnage is the death of 2100 Oregonians. Comparatively, at the height of the AIDS epidemic in 1994, Oregon lost 362 people.

We fully support the passage of HB 2638-1 because it will make critical changes to the state Alcohol & Drug Policy Commission (ADPC), strengthening its capacity to design and implement and end to Oregon's addiction crisis in the following ways:

1. It fosters broad collaboration between the ADPC and key addiction policy implementors by designating the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Behavioral Health Director as well as a representative of the Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) as non-voting members of the commission.
2. It re-directs the focus of the commission away from the criminal justice system towards the health care system by adding addiction prevention and recovery experts to the list of categories the Governor should consider when appointing the 16 members of the commission. This is critical to the development of continuum-of-care which is evidence based and integrated into the primary care system.
3. It creates a higher degree of authority—and accountability—for the commission by making the Executive Director the non-voting Chair of the commission. This is critically important to insuring that the commission's upcoming strategic planning process is nimble, comprehensive and capable of absorbing stakeholder input.

Oregon Recovers believes HB 2638-1 is one more critical step towards designing and implementing the systems and cultural change necessary to transform Oregon's fractured and incomplete addiction recovery system. We urge you vote "yes" for HB 2638-1.

For more information contact:

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