

-March 7, 2019

Chair Williamson, Vice-Chairs Gorsek and Sprenger and distinguished committee members, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to address you in support of HB 2797 "Taylors Law". My name is Ned Walls.

- Retired Law Enforcement with 27 years, 19 of those in Drug Investigations.
- Current Football Coach at an Oregon High School.
- Friend to the Martineks.

Through my professional and personal life I have seen the horrible consequences illicit drugs and over prescribed prescription drugs have on families, and communities' in Oregon, with the increasing amounts drugs flooding across our southern border traveling up I5, polluting our communities, killing our kids and vulnerable population. This law gives Law Enforcement a chance to hold those who push poison accountable.

In my previous career I have seen all too often drug dealers, arrested, given probation and go right back to selling poison to our communities.

- The total number of deaths related to drug use in Oregon rose 11 percent from 493 in 2013 to 546 in 2017¹.
- At a time when heroin, methamphetamine and cocaine are readily available for purchase, when drug related deaths are increasing²

¹ 2019 Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Threat Assessment and Counter Drug Strategy, Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Investigative Support Center, June, 2018

² 2019 Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Threat Assessment and Counter Drug Strategy, Oregon-Idaho HIDTA Investigative Support Center, June, 2018

and Oregon ranks in the top 10 nationally for past month illicit use of all drugs and for past year non-medical use of pain relievers³, the Oregon-I recognize that we are not going to arrest our way out of the drug problem that exists in our communities. Similarly, we recognize that it is impossible for the state to prevent its way out of the problem and that it is equally impossible to treat its way out of the problem.

- I recognize, due to my past professional life that a collective approach which integrates effective and professional enforcement in which Taylors Law would be a valuable tool, along with evidence based prevention and treatment is far more likely to achieve the desired results of reducing drug consumption and availability, which translates to saving lives and to vibrant, safe and healthy communities that all Oregonians deserve.
- I urge you to support Taylors Law, Thank you!

³ *National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2016-2017*, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, January 2018.