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February 6, 2020

To: Rep. Mitch Greenlick, Chair
Rep. Cedric Hayden, Vice-Chair
Rep. Tiffany Mitchell, Vice-Chair
CC: Members of the House Behavioral Health Committee
Re: **Testimony in Support of HB 4149**

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 services. 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 nearly two years ago, Oregon is locked in the throes of an unprecedented health crisis. According to the latest SAMHSA Report from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health, Oregon has the 3rd highest untreated addiction rate in the nation and ranks 47th 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 is the death of more than 2100 Oregonians. Comparatively, at the height of the AIDS epidemic in 1994, Oregon lost 362 people.

We fully support the passage of HB 4149 because it lays the groundwork for the successful implementation of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission's Statewide Strategic Plan by identifying gaps in our system and ascertaining the investments needed to build a comprehensive, recovery-oriented continuum of care. It is critical that we use the short session as an opportunity to conduct this statewide mapping so that the legislature is fully prepared to respond by implementing and funding the plan in the next session. I would also like to stress that Oregon Recovers feels strongly that no current or future task forces or legislation should be used as justification to delay action on the Commission's plan to save lives.

This bill creates a critical level of accountability for our cities and counties to ensure that they are investing new addiction dollars in the most effective way possible. A recent study from the Criminal Justice Commission compared how different counties invest into addiction treatment and found that Multnomah County has one residential treatment bed for every 1,100 residents. Their neighbors in Washington County have one residential bed for every 12,000 residents and Clackamas County has one treatment bed for every 39,000 residents. It doesn't matter how much money Multnomah County puts into the system, because, until Clackamas and Washington County are also investing appropriate levels into addiction recovery, we will continue to see Multnomah County overwhelmed with residents from other counties seeking treatment. This is why it's imperative that we require Cities and Counties to report to the ADPC how they are spending new addiction dollars to ensure that these investments align with the Strategic Plan recommendations.

Oregon Recovers believes HB 4149 is a vital step towards designing and implementing a recovery-oriented continuum of care that responds to the needs of *ALL* Oregonians, whether they need immediate treatment, harm reduction services or recovery supports. We urge you vote "yes" for HB 4149.

For more information contact:

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