

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in front of you today. Alcohol abuse is a misunderstood and Cruel disease. This is a 911 disease. The health and wellness of the people in our state should be top priority. There is a strong lobby for the beer and wine industry, but I am here to be the voice and lobby for parents, grandparents, spouses, brothers, sisters, and my daughter Katie.

•Share newspaper obituaries (2)
Who is their voice?

Two weeks before Katie passed, Katie and her friend Javier went to the state capitol to share and lobby in support of Oregon Recovers Advocacy Day and testify how they did not have the support or help they need in Oregon with their Alcohol disease.

On Friday February 28th 2020, I hug and said goodbye to my daughter as she went to a treatment facility in California. Katie had to go to California because the lack of options for drug and alcohol treatment in Oregon, lack of beds available, cost of treatment, and insurance support.

On March 1st 2020, I was woken up from the knock on the front door, to be shocked to see a Police Officer and Chaplain to receive the news my daughter had died in the treatment facility.

As a mother, I should have not had to send my daughter out of state. Katie shared with me many times; she wanted the help and wanted to be clean. With the lack of treatment facilities in our state and the last year of her life, Katie went to the Salem Hospital over 100 times asking for help. Quote " Help me, I'm going to die, please help me." Only to be turned away and with no help to transition into a treatment facility. **KATIE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO GET THE SUPPORT HERE IN OREGON.**

In the state of Oregon, we have failed to help with the cruel alcohol disease. However, if you have heart disease and go to the hospital you are seen and not turned away. Smoking cigarettes is an addiction and in Oregon there is free help and support to quit smoking. Gambling is an addiction and in Oregon there is free help and support to quit.

There is a lack of support, a lack of education, a lack of understanding, a lack of funding, and lack of compassion for people who need help.

This disease impacts EVERYONE in our community.

Look around this disease is everywhere.

Alcohol abuse is such a misunderstood and cruel disease. Legislators need to stop prioritizing the interest of alcohol distribution over the welfare of our families. It's time to stop worshipping alcohol lobbyist and end Oregon's devastating addiction crisis by raising alcohol prices. This is matter of life or death.

Please take action like this is your son, daughter, spouse, grandmother, grandfather, or friend.

What is your plan to help our state and community?