

Dr. Sonja Grove

Testimony to Representative Wilde and Committee for General Government

My name is Sonja Grove and I am the mother of a 53 year old who died April 5, 2020 of alcohol related causes. My son left my house, drove to a motel on 82nd, and drank himself to death. My son, Jon, was educated, loved and struggled with alcohol since bingeing in college. He attended many AA meetings for socialization and had treatment once that did not take because it was 30 days only. I may not be able to stop the delivery of hard alcohol, but I want to leave you all with a message about alcoholics and access to alcohol. My son drank at his house and the delivery person might not be able to determine he was inebriated, because an alcoholic can drink a great deal and not show it. He was able to consume a great deal of alcohol before he finally died of alcohol related causes. I am one who can have a glass of Oregon wine or a craft beer, but my son could not. Access to alcohol for the alcoholic is increased by home delivery, making it easier for them to drink even more. I want to leave this committee with a message about alcoholism in this state. Six people die of alcohol related causes each day in Oregon. It is a huge issue and Oregon Recovers asked me to speak to this bill and hopefully their other Volunteer in organisation that serves people in crisis. bill to raise the cost of alcohol to deter drinking. It is the one method that can deter drinkers - price matters. Thank you, Representative Wilde, for allowing me to speak to this subject.