

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

Oregon is facing one of the worst addiction crises in the nation, 3rd highest untreated addiction rate in the nation, the 4th highest alcohol use disorder rate, and rank virtually last in access to treatment. Alcohol-related death is the 3rd leading cause of preventable death in Oregon and alcohol kills five times as many people as all drug overdoses combined--a rate that has increased 34% in the last 21 years. HB 3194 would allow stores to sell "cocktails in a can" or, as they're known in the public health field "alcopops". These are sugary, 8-14% alcoholic beverages that pose an especially high risk for young people reporting 50% of age 13-20 drink alcopops.

HB 3194 defines "low-proof spirit beverage" as containing not more than 14% ABV and in Washington it's 7%, .taxed at \$0.65 cents per gallon. This follows the ABV limitation on table wine and the tax rate. (Table wine is also subject to an additional tax of 2 cents allocated to the Oregon Wine Board.) Applying comparable ABV limits and tax rates to these very different products, without clear justification, is not appropriate. Historically in the United States, the type of alcohol has been the basis for differing policies regarding production, distribution, retail sales, and taxes. Treating low-proof spirit beverages like wine would be a major shift in Oregon alcohol sales and tax policy.