

Tri-Chairs of Ways and Means, my name is Dr Brad Anderson and I live in SW Portland. I am a physician board certified in Addiction medicine and a commissioner on the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission for the state of Oregon. I urge you to fund Rep. Sanchez's legislative task force on HB 3377 so that we can finally have a meaningful conversation about how to sustainably fund addiction treatment services in Oregon. Prior to the pandemic, Oregon, as a state, had one of the highest rates of addiction and lowest rates of recovery in our country. During the pandemic, these problems have only intensified. I have seen this first-hand in my patient population. In contrast to COVID, addiction thrives in isolation and dies in community. We will see the effects on addiction and recovery rates for years. But we know what works, we know that every dollar spent on treatment saves \$5 to \$7. As a commissioner on the ADPC, I took part in creating a comprehensive plan to address prevention, engagement, treatment, and recovery. We need the resources to implement this life saving and fiscally sound plan. The creation of this task force is critical to help explore ways of funding these efforts because Oregonians are dying each day from alcohol addiction.