

TO: Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health
RE: Yes on HB 4004

Dear Chair Nosse and Committee Members,

My name is Tony Vezina, I am a person in long-term recovery, the Executive Director of 4D Recovery, and the Chair of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission and I am personally endorsing HB 4004 for several reasons, including:

1. Our BH System is contracting, especially for youth services, during a time of incredible surge in substance use issues.
2. Low treatment reimbursement rates are creating wage ceilings for BH service providers, contributing to workforce shortages.
3. New statistics show that Oregon's substance use issue is getting worse, not better; evidenced by: increased drug overdoses, alcohol related deaths, and substance use in general.
4. This bill directly aligns with several goals articulated in the [Alcohol and Drug Policies Plan](#).

As the Executive Director of an organization providing peer-based recovery support services, I can attest to the importance of increased funding to the treatment sector. Everyday, we struggle to get people into the services they need in order to achieve their goals. For example, when a person who wants detox cannot get in because the agency is short staffed, it prolongs their journey.

As a person in recovery, who graduated from treatment nearly 10 years ago, I am encouraged by the energy building to fix our broken system.

I would like to specifically thank Chair Nosse and Representative Sanchez for their leadership.

Respectfully,

Tony Vezina
Executive Director, 4D Recovery
Chari, Oregon Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission