

TO: Oregon House Committee on Behavioral Health
RE: Yes on HB 4098

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 endorsing HB 4098 for several reasons, including:

1. Drug and Alcohol issues are getting worse in Oregon. We currently rank 2nd in the nation for substance use disorder and last in access to treatment, according to the latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health. In addition, drug overdoses and alcohol related deaths are rising dramatically.
2. Substance use is a pervasive disease that impacts every part of society, from homelessness, decreased economic productivity, poverty, domestic violence, child welfare, education, incarceration, medical costs, and more; this bill will bring more of Oregon's agency leadership to the forefront of creating comprehensive solutions to solving this crisis.

I would like to specifically thank Representative Sanchez for their leadership on this issue and Dr. Richardson (Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission Executive Director) for his commitment to executing the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commissions Strategic Plan.

The APDC's plan is important for the following reasons:

1. It creates improvement goals for the state's treatment system.
2. It provides a framework for accomplishing system improvement goals.
3. It provides accountability for accomplishing the plan's goals.
4. It convenes multiple stakeholders, including state agencies, individuals, legislators, treatment providers, and community members in the process.

Respectfully,

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