

Cordelia Kraus, LPC, CADC1, Certified CRAFT Clinician
2505 SE 11th Ave, #232
Portland, OR 97202
503-662-2944
cordelia@helpingfamilieshelp.com

Testimony against HB 2976
March 2, 2023

Chair Bynum, Vice-Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chair Morgan, and Members of the House Committee
On Economic Development and Small Business:

My name is Cordelia Kraus and I am a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and a Licensed Professional Counselor, I specialize in evidence-based practice called CRAFT to work with families... who are struggling with their loved one's alcohol.. or other substance use.

I imagine proponents of the bill talk about increased revenue...say things like "Oregon will be a better place" because of the creation of a Board to develop and promote Oregon's distilled spirits industry. ... to my mind... talking about quality of life.

So Let's talk quality of life for families affected by alcohol use.

We know 12% of Oregonians meet criteria for Substance Use Disorder for alcohol... what we don't know is how many people are intimately affected by their loved one's alcohol use.

We don't have the numbers.. We don't even think to count. Anecdotally, from my experience through private practice, as a trainer and as the owner of a website that increases access to CRAFT-based approaches, I would guess on average there's at least 2 people significantly negatively affected for every one who meets criteria.

I'm talking Parents, spouses, children, siblings, lovers, roommates, close friends. I'm not counting grandparents, aunts & uncles, bosses, coworkers, neighbors, general friends and others...

What do I mean by Negatively affected?

Impact that I hear family members describe, from the Loved one's direct use of alcohol include LO's irritability; isolating; lying; losing necessary items: phone, ID, keys, or car; problems at work or school; harm and injury and sometimes death from assaults, accidents, alcohol poisoning or withdrawal, or other alcohol-related medical concerns; LO excessive spending/gambling; incarceration; DUII, other legal issues; lack of presence or engagement in family and home...

On top of this the family members themselves experience their own: financial problems, health problems, work productivity issues, relationship conflict, increased depression and anxiety,

traumatic memories, and ongoing worry about LO wellbeing and safety... and increase in the probability, frequency, and severity of abuse and violence at the hands of their intoxicated loved one.

Oregon Statewide Strategic plan for 2020 through 2025 from the Alcohol and Drug policy commission lists "*decreasing the availability and excessive marketing of harmful products*" as one of its named preventative measures... and this bill does exactly the opposite.

If the industry wishes to support their own organization to promote and distribute their products, great. It is not ethical to have our State support an organization for a product that is so incredibly harmful to so many of its constituents... whether that is the people directly struggling from their alcohol use or their family and friends who are significantly negatively impacted.

Thank you.