



3807 NE MLK Jr Blvd
Portland, OR 97212

support@4drecovery.org

971.703.4623

Bill: House Bill 2767

Position: Support

Name: Tony Vezina, Executive Director of 4D Recovery; Chair, Oregon's Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the House Committee on Education:

I am writing today in support of House Bill 2767 on behalf of 4D Recovery and my personal experience with addiction. My remarks do not reflect the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, but our statewide strategic plan calls for investments in Recovery Schools.¹

House Bill 2767, which will create a long-term, sustainable funding and governance model for recovery high schools in Oregon. Recovery high schools provide a safe, supportive education for youth in recovery from substance use and mental health disorders and **it is critical that Oregon begin investing in these life-saving programs.**

My addiction started in junior high school and quickly led me to give up sports, academics, and pro-social activities. Ultimately, I spiraled into dropping out altogether and that is when my drug use took a turn for the worse. Instead of entering treatment, I found myself in jail and being homeless until finding recovery in 2012.

After finding my recovery I dedicated my life to helping others do so as well, with a particular focus on youth and young adults. Eventually, I co-founded 4D Recovery, a peer support organization helping youth and young adults and helped start Harmony Academy with I am a current board member of. I love my work, but unfortunately during it I must consistently tell families there is little support for teenagers.

Oregon ranks 47th in the nation for substance use treatment and recovery support and this legislation is one step towards ensuring Oregon's future, our youth, do not find themselves as I did – without a solution to address their substance use. According to Oregon Health and Science University's SUD Service Gap Analysis, Oregon is 49% under capacity.²

Vote Yes on HB 2767 and help us close the gap on SUD services for kids.

Vote Yes so, I can tell families help is on the way.

Respectfully,

Tony Vezina, Sober since July 20th, 2012

¹ [https://www.oregon.gov/adpc/SiteAssets/Pages/index/Statewide%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/adpc/SiteAssets/Pages/index/Statewide%20Strategic%20Plan%20Final%20(1).pdf)

² https://www.oregon.gov/adpc/SiteAssets/Pages/gap-analysis/2023_January%2027_OHSU%20SUD%20Gap%20Analysis%20and%20Inventory%20Report.pdf