



Oregon Trail School District

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Bill: House Bill 2767
Position: Support
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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, 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.**

HB 2767 is the product of an interim interagency workgroup commissioned by HB 5202 in 2022 and offers a clear, collaborative path forward to expand, support and govern recovery high schools across the state.

The bill before you represents the work of an uncommon passion to pursue a purpose that will prove to move generations of families beyond the current failures of our system that has, for generations, let our children down. Youth in Oregon have greater access now, than any other time in our history, to drugs and other substances that will, at the least, impede their ability to arrive at the future they deserve and at worst, find them lifeless where they once vibrantly stood. Passing this legislation will bring our students the hope that a recovery high school can create a spark in them that will ignite newfound passions after recovery. This bill will undoubtedly find our children breathing new life into myriad dreams that may have otherwise passed: face down on the cold hard concrete, under a dark starless sky, buried beneath the refuse that is our inability to find it in us to lift them up such that they would not have to search in vain for some value outside of themselves, but that we would be party to imbuing in them a belief that they can achieve tomorrow that which seemed impossible yesterday!

Every beneficiary of the passage of this bill will watch as our state stands up to truly lead for some of our most vulnerable students. I am sure the legislation before you has the potential to set the state and country ablaze with an unfettered devotion to elevating the children and families who fight this battle by the day, the week, the month and the year. For every day that passes without the supports of this bill, their future grows more dim. If this bill only serves to save one family from losing one child and in doing so gives them, gives us, one more to love for just one more day, then this one bill and each one of you will be able to say you have faithfully

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served the least of us for the betterment of all of us. And if that day ever happens upon your family, you can rest easy in knowing that our mission as Oregonians is to fight for every last one

so that not even one is lost, and your family too can rejoice in the passing of this bill as your loved ones will be sure to live a long and fruitful life to pass on your legacy.

Oregon ranks 47th in the nation for substance use treatment and recovery support. This legislation provides a cost-effective and proven way to support adolescents in recovery as they work to gain their high school diploma.

On behalf of the children and families who have lost loved ones, who will lose loved ones and who may themselves become victims of addiction, **I urge your support for House Bill 2767** and ask that you vote **YES** on this critically-needed, thoughtfully-created legislation.

Thank you,

Aaron C Bayer

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