

Superintendent Dr. Aaron Downs

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**Bill**: House Bill 2767 **Position**: Support **Name**: Dr. Aaron Downs

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. I know that this has benefited students in our county and believe it could be an amazing opportunity for the state of Oregon.

Oregon ranks last 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 Canby School District, <u>**I urge your support for House Bill 2767</u>** and ask that you vote <u>**YES**</u> on this critically-needed, thoughtfully-created legislation.</u>

Thank you,

Dr. Aaron Downs Canby School District Superintendent