

Bill: House Bill 2767 **Position**: Support

Name: Tyler Cruickshank

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 think that this bill should be put into place because of the support that students with substance use disorders need. This would help recovery high school students get the resources they need to get and stay sober. The effects of this bill would help strengthen the recovery process and make the community get better for not only students, but also for the parents/guardians of said students. Putting this bill into place would help Oregon get a better national rank for substance use treatment and recovery support. HB 2767 would also open up jobs for people who have a history of substance use because of the role of *Recovery Coaches*. This could help lessen homelessness and because of that, make the communities safer.

Oregon ranks 50th 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 recovery community, <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.

Thank you,

Tyler Cruickshank