

**Bill:** House Bill 2767

**Position:** Support

**Name:** Dr. Andy Finch

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 helped start a recovery high school in Nashville in 1997, and subsequently have conducted and published research about them, and helped start the national Association of Recovery Schools in 2002. I continue to serve as a founding board member for the Association of Recovery Schools. Having legislative support for recovery high schools increases their sustainability, and this bill can serve as an example for other states.

Oregon now 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 Association of Recovery Schools, **I urge your support for House Bill 2767** and ask that you vote **YES** on this critically-needed, thoughtfully-created legislation.

Thank you,

Dr. Andy Finch