

Bill: House Bill 2767

Position: Support

Name: Ann Hightet, Chair Oregon Recovery High School Initiative, Trustee Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

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 chair the Oregon Recovery High School Initiative, am on the board of Harmony Academy, and the Alano Club of Portland, as well as a trustee of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation. My involvement with these organizations as well as sending two children through non recovery high schools, has shown me that it is imperative that Oregon implements a state wide recovery high school model. Students with substance use disorders are significantly more likely to return to use if they attend a non recovery high school. Harmony Academy has proven that a safe learning environment with educators who understand what the students are going through and who are there to help students with their recovery, and students who are seeking or are actively in recovery alongside each other, is life saving.

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

Thank you,

Ann Hightet
Chair of Oregon Recovery High School Initiative