



Gladstone School District 115

Growing Great People

17789 Webster Road, Gladstone Oregon 97027

Bob Stewart, Superintendent – 503.655.2777

Bill: House Bill 2767

Position: Support

Name: Superintendent Bob Stewart

City or County: Gladstone

Email address: bob@gladstone.k12.or.us

Dear Chair Neron, Vice-Chairs Hudson and Wright, and members of the House Committee on Education:

I strongly 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. **It is critical that Oregon begin investing in these life-saving programs.**

HB 2767 was designed by experts from the Oregon Legislature, the Oregon Health Authority, the Oregon Department of Education, the Alcohol Drug and Policy Commission, COSA, and ESDs. It offers a clear, collaborative path forward to expand, support and govern recovery high schools across the state.

Gladstone, like communities across Oregon, has seen a rise in teen mental health issues and the substance abuse that can result from depression and anxiety. While we are doing what we can to provide weekly on-site therapy through partner agencies, we know a number of students need more extensive supports to recover and succeed in graduating.

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

Thank you,

Bob Stewart, Superintendent
Gladstone School District 115

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