

Bill: House Bill 2767

Position: Support

Name: Jon Ghastin

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 recently retired from the Oregon Judicial Department after eight years as a Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge pro tem. Before taking the bench, I was a criminal defense attorney for nearly 20 years. I know from these experiences that early intervention and support for alcohol, drug and mental health issues - while keeping kids engaged with their education - would have a significant positive impact on the community. Recovery high schools as contemplated by HB 2767 will pay dividends for all of us.

Oregon ranks 47th 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. I urge your support for House Bill 2767 and ask that you vote YES on this critically needed, thoughtfully created legislation.

Thank you,

Jon Ghastin