

Bill: House Bill 2767
Position: Support
Name: Joseph Lee, MD

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

I am writing today on behalf of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation in support of House Bill 2767, which will create a long-term, sustainable funding and governance model for recovery high schools in Oregon.

Hazelden Betty Ford is the nation's largest nonprofit system of addiction treatment, mental health care, recovery resources and related prevention and education services. We have been a care provider in Oregon for more than two decades, with sites in Newberg and Beaverton and telehealth services that reach people in all corners of the state.

Nationally, Hazelden Betty Ford has been in business for 74 years, and we have seen firsthand the powerful impact of recovery high schools on our former patients and on families and communities across the United States. Recovery high schools provide a safe, supportive education for youth in recovery from substance use and mental health disorders. They are an essential part of the ecosystem in recovery-ready communities, and **it is critical that Oregon invests in these life-saving programs.**

As a child and adolescent psychiatrist and addiction medicine specialist who spent the first 13 years of my career working directly with struggling teenagers and their families, I was privileged to witness incredible healing and transformation up close. I also saw how tenuous change can be in young people and how important it was for my patients to stay connected to healthy, supportive environments in the initial weeks, months and years after their recovery began. By providing a supportive educational setting for students who share a unique healing bond, recovery high schools empower sustained recovery and enable young people to stay on a positive trajectory that pays societal dividends for decades to come. **This legislation provides a cost-effective, proven way to invest in young people and Oregon's future.**

On behalf of the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, **I urge your support for House Bill 2767** and ask that you vote **YES** on this critically needed, thoughtfully created legislation.

Thank you,

Joseph Lee, MD
President & CEO
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation