

Bill: House Bill 2767
Position: Support
Name: Melissa Wilk

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.

As someone who has experienced houselessness and seen the effects of alcohol and drug abuse with both of my biological parents - and as a teacher who has seen my students struggle with finding safe, supportive education for youth in recovery from substance use and mental health disorders - I believe this is incredibly important to pass.

Oregon now 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.

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

Thank you,

Melissa Wilk