

Submitter: Lonnie Martinez
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means
Measure: SB5506

Though I signed up to testify, I was not called on when the committee was in Newport.

We are experiencing a human services emergency. Rural town's, such as the ones that exist in Lincoln County, Oregon did not receive emergency resources for access to recovery services.

As a citizen & registered voter of Oregon, Lincoln County, I implore you to fund recovery services creating more access. While I grapple with being responsible for others' intentional actions causing themselves personal harm. The deterioration of the human capital has far more reach than just seeing people living on streets because they have given everything to support their disease of addiction. Every human life matters! Please fund recovery resources, detox inpatient centers and access to recovery services so those who WANT to change their lives can, even if they don't have financial resources.

Consider this....

12.34% of Oregonians age 12 and older have an alcohol use disorder—the fifth highest rate in the country. That means 453,609 Oregon residents age 12 and up are addicted to alcohol. That's about 7,560 people per Oregon House District, and roughly 15,120 people per Oregon Senate District.

18.22% of Oregonians age 12 and older have a Substance Use Disorder--the second highest rate in the country. That means 669,753 Oregon residents age 12 and up have a Substance Use Disorder. That's about 11,162 people per Oregon House District, and roughly 22,325 people per Oregon Senate District.

Oregon ranks 50th, DEAD last, in access to drug and alcohol treatment.

Excessive alcohol use is Oregon's third-leading preventable cause of death and disease, and alcohol kills 6 Oregonians every day.

Meanwhile, Oregon ranks 50th—DEAD last—in access to drug and alcohol treatment.

Oregon recorded 280 unintentional opioid overdose deaths in 2019. That number grew to 472 in 2020, which is an increase of nearly 70%. And in 2021, Oregon lost 745 lives to unintentional opioid overdoses—well over two and a half times the

number of lives lost in 2019.

Oregonians aged 12 through 17 account for 305,645 state residents. And according to OHSU's 2022 Substance Use Disorder Services Inventory and Gap Analysis, nearly 8% of them have a substance use disorder. That's roughly 24,360 12 through 17 year olds. That's about 406 kids per Oregon House District, and 812 kids per Oregon Senate District. These kids are the future leaders of our communities and country! They are also human beings not just a statistic.

What happened in a recent pandemic? EVERYONE was given the opportunity to help themselves with vaccinations, masks, money & food. A terrific example of our government stepping up to meet a need.

Please step up and meet this humanitarian need and fund addiction recovery resources across Oregon, including the rural areas, Oregon's future is dependent on your actions, more so than your words!

Sources;

SUDORS ~ State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (why would we need such a reporting system if there wasn't an epidemic)

ESSENCE ~ Electronic Surveillance Systems for the Early Notification of Community based Epidemics (why would we need such a reporting system if there wasn't an epidemic)

OHSU ~ Oregon Health Sciences University

OHA ~ Oregon Health Authority