

SB1547 is a crucial step forward in addressing the substance use disorder (SUD) epidemic among minors, particularly those struggling with cannabis addiction. The bill ensures that treatment facilities can provide immediate care to minors in crisis, even when the minor objects to treatment. This is crucial, as early intervention is often key to preventing the escalation of substance use disorders. By allowing minors to receive immediate treatment, the bill helps prevent potential harm and the progression to more dangerous substances.

The bill also takes a much-needed approach to the treatment of cannabis addiction. Cannabis use is often seen as less severe than other substances, but research has shown that it can lead to dependence and addiction, especially among young people. By requiring health benefit plans to cover inpatient treatment for cannabis use by minors, SB1547 acknowledges the need for specialized care for cannabis addiction and ensures that young people have access to the treatment they need.

As the director of a family-centric youth recovery program in Portland, OR, I can attest to the indispensable nature of this legislation. Many parents have felt disempowered when trying to enroll their teens in treatment, a process obstructed by the fact that teens can refuse treatment despite being deemed qualified by a professional assessment. This predicament has led some teens to decline to the extent of overdosing, prompting families in our program to administer Narcan to save their child's life. While I am grateful that we can provide access to Narcan, it underscores the urgent necessity for timely access to quality treatment. Early intervention is key, and this bill will help empower families who are actively working to save their children's lives.

In conclusion, SB1547 is a comprehensive approach to addressing substance use disorders among minors. It provides immediate care and intervention for those in crisis, ensures that cannabis addiction is recognized and treated appropriately, and. This bill is crucial for protecting the health and well-being of Oregon's youth.

Thank you,

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