

To the Joint Committee on Transportation Reinvestment:

I've read that the below are the 7 stages of addiction.

Initiation.

Experimentation.

Regular Usage.

Risky Usage.

Dependence.

Addiction.

Crisis/Treatment.

Here's how the Stages of Addiction translates to Oregon's Democrat super-majority:

Initiation - At some point, the idea of taxing businesses and consumers through a variety of ways to allegedly help pay for something in the state comes to mind. For the alcoholic, taking that first drink of an alcoholic substance is an initiation into something that, for many, can be maintained with moderation, but for some can turn into something more harmful.

Experimentation - Tax increases on businesses and consumers either get voted in by Oregon taxpayers (sometimes unbeknownst to them due to lack of research) or rammed through (like this \$11.7 billion HB 2025 bill does) without citizens being allowed to make their "voting voices" heard. Many times, alcoholics don't even recognize they are experimenting with a substance. What can start out as a one-off, can quickly evolve into moving from substance to substance (E.g., beer to whiskey to wine, etc.).

Regular Usage - Over-taxation, like drinking multiple alcoholic drinks per day, becomes a way of life. Things seem to be going fine. Money is coming in and supposedly being

allocated properly and with integrity to various improvements for the state. Just like when people attempt to "take the edge off" to keep attempting to maintain a level head or push through to something better the next day.

Risky Usage - The daily incoming tax money is like those multiple drinks where state and local government bodies increase their taxation or for the drinker, how much they consume and even what they consume.

Dependence - The government is now seemingly fully reliant on state taxpayers (from businesses and consumers) to foot the bill for their pet projects. There is usually nothing on the books about the government being held accountable for monies already taxed and put into state and local projects. It's a cycle of "tax and spend, repeat". Much like the alcoholic who has become dependent on curbing their troubles with alcohol or even different questionable substances. They're so used to their ways that they, in some instances, don't even realize how dependent they've become on a substance. For the Oregon Legislature, their substance is over-taxing citizens!

Addiction - Over-taxation is a way of life. That's the answer to everything for a legislative body that, in large part, is devoid of any real problem-solving skills. Skills that are needed to critically think, communicate clearly, budget responsibly and execute a plan with confidence, oversight and accountability within said execution. The alcoholic goes through the same thing, only with their drink(s) of choice/substances of choice. That's their way of living; drinking their days and/or nights away because that's the easy thing to do. Over-taxing citizens has become an addiction for the Oregon Legislature, and it must be curbed.

Crisis/Treatment - Once a problem is recognized and successful intervention has taken place, a legislative body can be on a path to making more responsible, innovative decisions for their constituents. Tax and spend is certainly not nearly close to always being the answer as to how to fix problems in a community, in a state or even in a nation. For the alcoholic, once they've realized their ways of "fixing their life" through substance abuse is not part of the narrow path to self-improvement, they slowly begin to realize there are other means to a more content end, even though it is hard to move away from what was a daily habit. Whether it's the Oregon legislature or an alcoholic, relying on any substance (i.e., over-taxation in the case of HB 2025) will not help taxpaying citizens of Oregon more easily

fulfill their need to take care of their families, to save for a better future and invest back into our state the cities/towns therein.

I'm strongly opposed to HB 2025, and it's about time we start thinking with more innovative problem-solving methods outside of taxing citizens every time there's a supposed problem that needs to be fixed. It's time we stop giving this drunk (the Oregon Legislature) a drink (over-taxation of taxpaying Oregon citizens).

Respectfully,

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