Madam Chair Taylor, and Senate Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to listen to my testimony on HB 3447.

My name is [redacted], I am a born and raised Oregonian and currently, I reside in [redacted]. My family have been farmer's in the Willamette Valley for over 100 years and I have been teaching children from 3rd grade through 8th grade for over 20 years.

This written testimony is my effort to bring awareness to the detrimental consequences of nitrous oxide use that is plaguing many young adults and their families. My husband and I have an adult son, who has been dealing with addiction, most recently, nitrous oxide. I was shocked to discover the volume at which anyone can purchase and abuse this gas. The side effects are traumatic, with damage to your spinal cord, internal organs as well as brain function. Thankfully, our son called U-turn for Christ and is currently in phase one of the treatment program. My husband and I have struggled with this question; Why is nitrous oxide being sold in the little markets around [redacted]? The consequences of repeated abuse outweigh many illicit drugs, or legalized drugs for ages 21 and over.

Let me give you a snapshot into what our family has had to endure because of **nitrous oxide**. First of all, I am not passing the responsibility of our son's addiction onto anyone. He has made these decisions on his own and is now living with the consequences of his actions. Our son [redacted], age [redacted] has difficulty walking as well as numbness in all of his extremities. The central nervous system along the spine loses the sheath that surrounds the nerve, this causes the extremities to lose their function, causing numbness and extreme pain. Not only has it affected his arms, legs and feet, but also his cognitive thinking. He may never be the same again and the damage that he has done to himself with easy availability of nitrous oxide.

Our society is being tricked into thinking this is something cool. I don't understand why a whipping cream gas would be allowed to be infused with blueberry, or strawberry flavor to entice our youth to go down this path of destruction. Currently, under federal law, possession of nitrous oxide is legal. However, the FDA regulates nitrous oxide under the Food, Drug and Cosmetics Act. Prosecution is possible for selling or distributing nitrous oxide for the purpose of human consumption. We have bank records that prove that repeated purchases have been made up to 4 times a day at one of our local markets. Some of the purchases are $20 dollars while others are up to $70 dollars a canister. On the label of the products it states that if ingested of nitrous oxide, could cause many symptoms including death. Although HB 3447 is a good start, more aggressive regulations need to be in place for this over the counter product. I know it is a big problem in not only our community, but our country as a whole.

In closing, I encourage our lawmakers to continue their efforts to protect our youth by regulating the sale of these toxic substances that have become readily

available to our youth with little or no regulation. Thank you for your time, and I will be willing to answer any questions you might have.