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Governor's Council will host Addictions Education Day on the Capitol steps

The social and economic impacts of drug and alcohol addiction on the state of Oregon will be the focus of an Addiction Education Day April 28 at the Capitol Building in Salem. The event is sponsored by the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs.

The feature event of the day will be a gathering on the front steps of the Capitol at 1 p.m. Those who arrive early are encouraged to attend Legislative hearings and floor sessions.

"The Domino Effect," the title of the council's previous two reports to the Governor and Legislature, will be a theme of the event. Stephanie Soares Pump, who chairs the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Programs, points out that alcohol and drug addictions affect the work and budgets of 26 state agencies.

"Addictions cost the state nearly six billion dollars a year," said Pump. "This is an opportunity for those already involved, or those wanting to get involved, to learn how we can better cope with the horrendous costs of addiction."

The presentation in front of the Capitol will feature a series of speakers including Oregon Attorney General John Kroger; State Senator Laurie Monnes-Anderson; State Representatives Ben Cannon and Jean Cowan; Oregon Partnership Communications Director and former television news anchor Pete Schulberg; Carla Ayers of the Family Tree Relief Nursery; and Angel Moore of the David Romprey Warmline.

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“The goals of Addiction Education Day are two-fold,” said Bill Hall, council vice chairman. “We want to assist people in educating legislators about the need for prevention, treatment and recovery services and the consequences of inadequately funding them while also demonstrating our convictions and support for our field.”