



Kate Brown, Governor

# Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission

## Statement on HB 2638

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The Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission (ADPC) wishes to express our appreciation to Representative Sanchez for being a tireless legislative champion of all Oregonians touched by addiction.

According to the most recent findings from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Oregon ranks 50<sup>th</sup> in access to substance use disorder treatment services for Oregonians impacted by addiction. Oregonians struggle with addiction to alcohol and drugs every day, the social and financial cost to Oregon has resulted in the Governor's recent declaration of a Public Health Crisis. We can and must do better. There is much work for the Commission to do, and for us to accomplish this work we need a variety of perspectives, experiences, and knowledge to be represented on the Commission. This means having meaningful representation from our research, public health, health care and public safety partners, who work tirelessly, day in and day out, to assist Oregonians affected by the chronic disease of addiction. We must also include having representation beyond public health, health care and public safety—we also need partners from allied sectors like housing and social services. I believe that with a couple tactical adjustments in language, HB 2638 delivers the appropriate mix of different voices and perspectives that we need to adequately address the chronic illness of addiction.

Rep. Sanchez's recent amendment to HB 2638, restores participation of our public safety partners, while ensuring this group is not over-represented on the Commission. Moreover, we also recommend including social service providers and recovery housing specialists in the description of the stakeholders for whom the Governor should ensure are represented on the Commission. The Commission appreciates the opportunity to continue collaborating with Rep. Sanchez and this committee on HB 2638.