

# DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF LANE COUNTY

## Platform Committee

5/20/2021

### RESOLUTION 2021.10

A resolution of the Democratic Party of Lane County

*Regarding House Bill 3377-Establishing an Addiction Crisis Task Force*

**WHEREAS,** Oregon has the fifth highest alcoholism rate in the country (including the District of Columbia); and

**WHEREAS,** Oregon has the highest teen addiction rate in the nation; and

**WHEREAS,** six people die every day in alcohol related deaths in Oregon, a rate that has increased 34% since 2001; and

**WHEREAS,** Oregon ranks 47th in the nation for access to drug and alcohol treatment; and

**WHEREAS,** untreated addiction overall costs Oregon taxpayers \$6.7 billion; and

**WHEREAS,** binge drinking alone costs Oregon taxpayers \$4.8 billion per year, or \$1,100 per person; and

**WHEREAS,** each alcoholic drink sold costs \$2.08 in state and local government services; and

**WHEREAS,** Heavy drinking among women has increased 41% during the COVID-19 pandemic ; and

**WHEREAS,** Oregon's beer taxes are the lowest in the country and have not been adjusted for inflation or raised since 1977 and Oregon's wine taxes are the second lowest in the country and have not changed since 1983; and

**WHEREAS,** Oregon’s addiction recovery healthcare system is grossly underfunded resulting in long wait times to access care, little-to-no culturally informed services, and limited access to rural care; and

**WHEREAS,** alcohol continues to be the leading contributor to Oregon’s addiction crisis, the third leading cause of preventable death in the state, and the largest cost driver to our healthcare system; and

**WHEREAS,** less than 1% of Oregon’s alcohol industry is BIPOC owned, yet alcohol’s harms disproportionately impact our BIPOC communities and reinforce systemic racism that leads to overrepresentation in our foster care, homeless, and incarcerated populations.

**THEREFORE,** the Democratic Party of Lane County resolves:

**SECTION 1:** To support House Bill 3377, which will create a legislative task force to craft legislation about how to address Oregon’s unprecedented addiction crisis.

**SECTION 2:** To communicate our support to all Lane County Democratic Legislators in the Oregon House of Representatives and the Oregon Senate.