



Oregon Alliance for Drug Endangered Children
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April 18, 2007

**TESTIMONY OF ROB BOVETT
BEFORE THE HOUSE REVENUE COMMITTEE
IN SUPPORT OF HB 2535 AND HB 3535**

COPY

Chair Barnhart and Members of the Committee,

As you know, we have made a bit of progress addressing some of the collateral damage caused by the meth epidemic. One small success has been the virtual elimination of local toxic meth labs in Oregon (*see attached*). Another recent success has been a reduction in meth purity, and an increase in the price of meth, for the first time in nearly a decade. Those small successes have provided a **golden opportunity** to begin the process of **addressing the underlying issues of addiction and mental health**. That's where we need your help.

The good news is that science-based prevention and treatment work. Drug courts, relief nurseries, and community prevention coalitions are a few examples. The bad news is that Oregon ranks 45th in the Nation for treatment access per capita, and 49th in the Nation for treatment access among young adults. That must be corrected.

At the Governor's Meth Task Force and the Attorney General's Underage Drinking Task Force, we identified the areas we need to focus on, namely **Prevention**, **Enforcement**, and **Treatment**.

In terms of state supported law **enforcement**, **House Bill 3535** (which you heard on Monday), dedicates 1% of General Fund revenues to support restoring the critical services provided by the Oregon State Police. **We strongly encourage you to support House Bill 3535.**

In terms of **prevention**, local law **enforcement**, and **treatment**, **we strongly encourage you to support House Bill 2535**, the malt beverage cost recovery fee. You will hear from many witnesses today who will explain the justification and need for this important legislation. I would just like to highlight that: (1) House Bill 2535 was the product of a **team** of folks from very diverse backgrounds and professions; and (2) the proceeds will support prevention, local law enforcement, and treatment.

Thank you in advance for considering my thoughts. As always, please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



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pc: Meth caucus (Senators Burdick and Beyer, and Representatives Macpherson and Krieger)

Rescue. Defend. Shelter. Support.