



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

**Governor's Advisory Committee on Driving
Under the Influence of Intoxicants**
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Dear Colleague:

The Governor's Advisory Committee (GAC) on DUII first met CLEAR Alliance five years ago when they approached our board, looking to become more engaged with the prevention of drug-impaired driving and educating youth in Oregon schools about the hazards of drug-use. As the only state board tasked with addressing impaired driving by bringing together partners from Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Courts, Victim Advocates, Treatment, etc., this was a niche in Prevention that was yet unmet, especially when working with teen drivers and building safe driving habits that carry into adulthood. This was a role that had never been filled before, specifically for impaired driving and teens. Our state was already facing the legalization of marijuana, and a growing problem of drug-impaired driving fatalities that was professionally anticipated to increase, which came to fruition evidenced in Oregon's continuing rise in impaired driving crashes involving drug use.

The GAC on DUII added CLEAR Alliance as a partner in this effort and the results they have delivered in relatively short order have been astounding and appreciated. In just a few years, they have gone from a concept of teaching teens in a classroom about drug-impaired driving in a pilot project, to expanding across the entire state, one county at a time, with trainers in almost every Oregon county. CLEAR Alliance has also expanded their reach into Driver Education classes, where impaired driving information is traditionally scarce and limited to alcohol, and taught by individuals who usually have no professional background in law enforcement, drug prevention or substance abuse. CLEAR Alliance has continually impressed the GAC on DUII and our partners and liaisons with their fact-based education, meticulous research, and a commitment to constant content improvement and delivery. Additionally, CLEAR navigated the challenges presented by COVID-19 and seamlessly transitioned into online based training which allowed a continued delivery to education in a time of uncertainty.

Each month, CLEAR Alliance participates in our GAC on DUII meetings, offering information on trainings, details on their expansion, and providing assistance to any willing partner. We have watched them build relationships with the Oregon National Guard, as well as local health departments, school districts, other drug prevention groups, all while navigating the complexities of Oregon's drug-permissive environment to keep their mission clear and free from the politics that can often derail such efforts. As the only non-profit group in Oregon that is working specifically to educate teen drivers on drugs and impaired driving, CLEAR Alliance continues to be an invaluable partner.

The State of Oregon faces many challenges with drug-impaired driving, including shrinking law enforcement resources and many of their traditional tools. The recent decriminalization of drugs in Oregon by Ballot Measure 110 in 2020 all but promises to compound those challenges and the corresponding rise in drug-impaired fatalities. It is the mission and focus of the GAC on DUII to educate, innovate and cooperate with partners and stakeholders with shared goals and we are proud to have CLEAR Alliance in our corner as they work tirelessly to reach tomorrow's drivers.

Sincerely,

Chuck Hayes
Chair, Governor's Advisory Committee on DUII