



April 15, 2021

## To Whom It May Concern:

CLEAR Alliance continues to be a critical partner in the fight against drugged driving in Oregon since its inception five years ago. Currently, drugged driving is a problem that has increased significantly in the last few years with the legalization of cannabis, as well as the recent decriminalization of all drugs with Ballot Measure 110. As it stands, there is no other effort to reach teens to educate them about drugs and the connection to impaired driving as they are at the age of learning to drive and adopting safe driving habits that carry into adulthood. Law enforcement is an essential tool in stopping the crimes and the horrific tragedies that result from impaired driving, but only CLEAR Alliance is stepping into that breach to address bad choices and behavior with kids before the fact. Every teen who learns the facts about drugs and impaired driving, and their own personal responsibility towards safety, is hopefully one more adult that won't become a growing statistic, or cause another fatal crash on Oregon's roadways.

Schools have been a notoriously difficult entity to engage with regarding impaired driving, especially with all the constraints on curriculum and classroom time. CLEAR Alliance has managed to build partnerships with schools in health classes where traditional conversations about drugs are usually very limited and without the critical connection to impaired driving where a majority of teen and young adult drug-related fatalities occur. CLEAR Alliance has also built partnerships with driver education classes, where traditional conversations about impaired driving are very limited and overlook the reality of the growing exposure teens have to drugs, along with a fact-based discussion about the nexus with drugs and impaired driving, including refusal skills. Both of these efforts are helping to create a new generation of safety-conscious young adult drivers.

Oregon has an uphill battle to fight the growing problem of drug-impaired driving, and law enforcement cannot shoulder this burden alone. We cannot arrest or prosecute our way out of this problem. It is only with partners like CLEAR Alliance who are addressing the gaps in our system that we stand a chance to decrease our growing number of fatal crashes with a new generation of drivers who have cemented safe behavior into their daily lives.

Best Regards,

Jason Mers, Executive Director Oregon State Sheriffs' Association Kevin Campbell, Executive Director Oregon Association Chiefs of Police