



Native American Youth and Family Center

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March 1, 2021

To: Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

RE: Senate Bill 755 – Support

My name is Rebecca Descombes (Inupiat) and I have the honor of serving as the Health & Environment Policy Coordinator with the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA). NAYA's wraparound programs directly serve over 2,000 individual Native American youth, adults, and Elders every year and positively impacts more than 10,000 lives throughout Portland's growing urban Native community. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our organization has continued to provide direct social services for communities in need.

Oregon's addiction and overdose crisis disproportionately impacts the Black, Native/Indigenous, Latinx, and LGBTQ2+ communities. SB 755 will increase access to low-barrier, culturally-responsive treatment, recovery, housing and harm-reduction services to those who need and want it. It is time that we invest in more culturally specific treatment and support services to best ensure we can reach people where they are culturally, mentally and physically. Furthermore, we have an opportunity to invest in and stand up for our youth by providing treatment, recovery, housing and harm-reduction services to our most vulnerable population.

On behalf of the Native American Youth and Family Center (NAYA) we celebrate the passage of Measure 110 and urge you to strongly consider the passage of SB 755.

Quyanakpak,

Rebecca Descombes
Health & Environment Policy Coordinator
Native American Youth and Family Center