

Mr. Chair & Members of the Committee:

My name is Peter Buckley, I am a former state representative (2005-17) living in Ashland and working for Southern Oregon Success, a collaboration of all levels of education, health care, mental health care, human services, public safety and workforce development in Jackson and Josephine counties.

I would like to let you know why I strongly supported Measure 110 and am now offering support for SB 755.

The recovery community in Southern Oregon shares a very powerful vision. We have a number of organizations doing creative, effective work with a clear understanding of the connection between addiction and Adverse Childhood Experiences, as well as the impacts of the Social Determinants of Health.

They fully understand that recovery includes strengthening individual capabilities, increasing positive social connections and being part of a supportive community.

Recovery requires basic needs to be met, particularly housing. It requires access to wrap around services, peer counseling and support. It requires innovative programs such as Asante's "Eat, Sleep and Console" model that helps new mothers and babies impacted by addiction to bond together and get on a stronger path in life. Programs like the Oasis Center, where teams from a number of community agencies come together to offer coordinated case management and support for women in recovery.

It requires programs such as those pioneered by Rita Sullivan, the former executive director of OnTrack, that prioritize keeping families together in supported housing, offering the chance for brighter futures for parents and children.

Addictions have damaged too many families in our state and in our region. With SB 755, we have the chance to turn the tide.

The two things the recovery community in Southern Oregon needs are greater resources for the expansion of the creative, effective programs that work here, and, perhaps even more importantly, the workforce needed to meet the demand.

We have visionary leaders and comprehensive programs at work. They need the resources and workforce to bring their vision fully to life. SB 755 is a step in that direction, and I strongly urge your support.

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