

Submitter: Emilie Junge

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Measure: HB4016

Dear Committee Members:

I am an attorney in Oregon, specializing in expungement of criminal records. At our Clear Clinic we see hundreds, soon to be thousands, of people who have been held back from opportunities because of their history of substance use and addiction-related offenses. Measure 110 is a critical component for changing this narrative by offering treatment for people who are trying to get out of the vicious cycle created by policing of those with substance use issues. Millions of dollars have been spent on arresting, incarcerating and re-arresting people with drug use issues, wasting precious dollars that could have been spent offering treatment and support. Reducing or taking any of the funds dedicated to this need, as this bill would do, makes no economic sense. Nor does it make sense to cut any funds at the very moment that implementation of M110 grants are about to be realized, and that overdoses are at a record high. We need to maximize, not reduce, funds available to interrupt the cycle that traps so many people. When I see long records of arrests for possession, theft and other offenses related to addiction I see a waste of human and governmental capital. Rather, I sincerely hope that you will agree that money spent on treatment and support is money well spent.