

Senate Committee on the Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Testimony Against Senate Bill 1541

On Behalf of the M110 Oversight and Accountability Council

February 7, 2022

Chair Prosanski, Vice Chair Thatcher, and members of the committee, my name is LaKeesha Dumas and I am speaking as a Tri-Chair on behalf of the Measure 110 Oversight and Accountability Council. I am joined today by my fellow members of the Council and I ask that they put their videos on so the committee can see us this morning. Together, we represent 10 counties throughout the state of Oregon, from Pendleton to Newport, to Corvallis, to Klamath Falls, to Medford, to the Warm Springs Reservation, and to Portland, where I was born and raised. I am a certified community health worker and peer support specialist. As a Council, we have hundreds of years working in the field of substance use treatment and services and have lived experiences in the communities we serve.

We are here to express our opposition to Senate Bill 1541.

This week, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ranked Oregon #2 in substance use disorder rates in the country and nearly last in access to substance use disorder treatment and services (#50). Between 2019 and 2020, opioid overdoses in Oregon nearly doubled. These numbers represent real people and there are few Oregon families not touched by this reality. Just this week, council members know members of their communities who have died or who are struggling for their lives in the hospital. We work and live in this reality every day.

One year ago, last week (February 2021), our Council was tasked with awarding grants to establish Behavioral Health Resource Networks, a national model in substance use disorder

treatment and services. In December 2021, our council received 281 grant applications totaling a request for over \$400 million dollars. Within weeks, our Council plans to send notifications of awards for \$280 million dollars, that's everything we have, to community organizations and tribes so that they can provide life-saving treatment and services for Oregonians. These treatment and services will go to every single county and all Tribal nations in Oregon, including (Douglas, Lane, Clackamas, Marion, Washington, Yamhill, Multnomah, Linn, Benton, Douglas, Klamath, and Lane). However, if SB 1541 is passed, it would cut \$150 million dollars from the Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund which funds M110 Implementation. That's \$30 million dollars immediately and \$120 million in the 2023-2025 biennium. That's \$150 million dollars we would be taking away from organizations providing life-saving substance use disorder treatment and services throughout the state, many of which serve communities of color and communities disproportionately impacted by the "War on Drugs". Voters throughout Oregon spoke loud and clear that they wanted the legislature to fund access to life-saving treatment and services, to give voice to the voiceless. SB 1541 would take away this voice, put Oregonians' lives at risk, and ignores those Oregonians who lives have already been lost due to lack of funding for these services. I ask the committee, what could be more of an emergency than Oregonians dying? Thank you for your time to express our opposition to SB 1541.