

Submitter: Ray Stangeland

On Behalf Of: Health Justice Recovery Alliance

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1541

Dear Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Cate and Kropf, and members of the House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity,

My name is Dr. Ray Stangeland. I am submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 1541.

I am a retired emergency physician with over 40 years of service in Oregon Emergency Departments. I have witnessed first hand countless Oregonians who have been ravaged by the disease of Substance Use Disorder and Addiction. I have seen nearly every conceivable complication of this disorder. I have seen how it has horribly affected individuals, families, and entire communities. I have heard too many tragic stories of how difficult getting into treatment can be. I have seen some of these same individuals return to ER deceased. New data from SAMHSA shows Oregon ranking second in the nation for substance use disorder and a terrible 50th out of 50 in addiction and recovery services. This is a disgrace and not consistent with Oregonians' values nor with the overwhelming support that Measure 110 received at the polls.

I have had to tell mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, children that their family member has died because of untreated drug addiction. This is a task that all ER doctors would like to end. Overdose deaths are currently at an all time high. Evidence based drug addiction treatment has shown to be very effective in reducing death and returning suffering individuals into productive healthy lives. This greatly benefits them, their families, the community, and the overburdened criminal justice system. Effective treatment requires a team of highly trained individuals working in coordination over a considerable period of time. For this treatment to be effective, long term access and financial support is essential.

THE NEED TO FULLY FUND MEASURE 110 SERVICES COULD NOT BE MORE URGENT!

This is absolutely the wrong time to make cuts. M110 is just getting started. It has already had impact. With our behavioral health system already strained by COVID-19 we need to support our struggling behavioral health system. I respectfully ask that you reject any attempt to cut Measure 110 funding.

Sincerely,
Ray G. Stangeland, M.D.
Physician

