



Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice Chair Thatcher members of the committee

My name is Tera Hurst; I'm testifying in opposition to SB1541 and the -1 amendments on behalf of the Health Justice Recovery Alliance. We represent more than 75 community-based organizations across the state with deep knowledge and experience working to serve and strengthen local communities. Members include culturally-specific organizations, labor, harm reduction and addiction recovery providers, advocates, medical associations and people in recovery.

Our work is centered on the implementation of Measure 110, the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act. We're focused on investing in the communities most harmed by the war on drugs — Black, Latinx, Native, Indigenous, and tribal communities. People of color and low-income Oregonians continue to be disproportionately harmed by Oregon's failed approach to addiction; they are overrepresented in the criminal justice system and underrepresented in the healthcare system.

Last week marked one year that Oregon became the first state to decriminalize possession of small amounts of drugs through Measure 110. In its first year the law has prevented *thousands* of harmful arrests while expanding access to critical harm reduction and addiction recovery services for all Oregonians — especially those most targeted by the racist war on drugs.

In its first six months, Measure 110 has helped more than 16,000 people. Next month, \$270 million *more* is slated to be invested in increased access to lifesaving services that include housing, peer support, harm reduction, overdose prevention and low-barrier recovery treatment services in every Oregon County, from Benton County to Baker County and everywhere in between.

This is the absolute WRONG time to make cuts or try and cap funding to behavioral health services; we cannot take steps backwards from the voter-approved commitment to invest in treatment and behavioral health services. Our providers

need stable funds to enable them to do the incredible work they do to serve our communities.

We are extremely grateful that you all have heard our voices and will be finding funding to address the issues in Southern Oregon from other sources. We would also like to encourage the legislature to not attempt to swipe this fund every session, it causes harm and erodes trust. We would also like to request that Health Justice Recovery Alliance, M110 Oversight and Accountability Council, Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission and the proponents of the equity fund also be at the table during the interim as we discuss the potential reallocation of the 90 million a biennium.

The Measure 110 Oversight & Accountability Council received applications asking for nearly \$390 million to support the formation of Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRNs), which will provide access to low-barrier addiction recovery services in every Oregon County. The amount of funds requested by local addiction recovery service providers is about \$110 million *more* than the OAC had available to issue to grantees. To think about cutting these funds even further when we already can't meet the existing need will mean the loss of lives.

With overdose deaths on the rise across the country, and new data from SAMHSA showing Oregon ranks second in the nation for substance use disorder and 50th in addiction and recovery services, the need to continue to fully fund Measure 110 services could not be more urgent.

We must uphold Measure 110 and ensure that all Oregonians have access to harm reduction and addiction recovery services. There is no shortage of demands on behavioral health and community-based providers to respond to this growing behavioral health crisis. The pandemic has exacerbated the lack of stable investment in our existing system of response. Please do not create more uncertainty by introducing bills like this one. Showing more lack of commitment to behavioral health is so out of step with the demands from the community.

Sincerely,

Tera Hurst  
Executive Director