

February 1, 2023

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I am writing on behalf of Iron Tribe Network in opposition of HB 2089.

Iron Tribe Network is a community organization committed to building community through wellness and recovery programs, including peer support and housing. Our main goal is to preserve families or assist in the reunification of families. Our recovery housing provides clean and sober living for families to help facilitate this healing. We are a peer run organization, doing this work through the empathetic lens of our own lived experiences.

We were awarded Measure 110 funds just five months ago. Our Measure 110-funded programs are just getting off the ground, and yet the positive impact on our communities is already being felt.

Measure 110 funding is enabling us to provide recovery housing and peer support for individuals and families in Multnomah, Columbia, Clatsop and Marion Counties. The demand for recovery housing is high, particularly in Marion County. Our new Marion County home was full on the first day that beds became available, and the waitlist to get into that house is very long.

The recovery housing we provide is critical for individuals in the process of recovering from addiction or substance abuse. Recovery housing provides them with a supportive, structured environment to focus on their recovery. Recovery housing provides individuals with resources and support to help them overcome their addiction, avoid triggers and temptations, and ultimately the tools they need to build the foundation for stable, long-term recovery.

Measure 110 has brought hope to Oregon families and communities struggling with substance use. By providing unprecedented funding to pay for treatment and lifting criminal penalties for use, Measure 110 is creating a system where people can get the help they need without losing their jobs, their children, or their dreams for the future.

HB 2089 would cut those services.

HB 2089 would take more than \$40 million away from currently funded Measure 110 overdose prevention and addiction recovery services. These cuts would have drastic, devastating impacts on organizations like mine. Addiction recovery providers are counting on Measure 110 funds to continue working to meet the tremendous need for more recovery services. And now, just as we are beginning to be able to hire more staff and increase beds, HB 2089 brings more uncertainty to an already challenging workforce situation.

A study by OHSU revealed that Oregon's treatment capacity is still at only about half of what it should be to meet the tremendous need for services. We shouldn't even be discussing cuts to behavioral health care this legislative session for those reasons alone. I strongly urge you to stand with Oregon voters and the families in Oregon who are counting on you to protect Measure 110 funding for their loved ones. Please vote no on HB 2089.

Sincerely,

Meli Rose
Director of Operations
Iron Tribe Network