



February 2, 2023

FROM: Juntos LLC
Jose Luis Garcia
Executive Director, Juntos LLC

RE: HB 2089

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

My name is Jose Luis Garcia, my Organization, Juntos, is a grass-roots organization focused on providing behavioral health navigation and harm reduction services to the Latino/a/x community. We are a M110 Grantee, and our services are in Multnomah County. I am here to testify in opposition to HB 2089. HB 2089 would significantly reduce funding for behavioral health, addiction recovery, critical mental health, and addiction treatment and prevention services, including culturally and linguistically specific services, and housing. To think of cutting these services now, when overdoses are on the rise and we see so much suffering on our streets, is immoral and wrong. Our workforce is in shambles and we as behavioral health organizations have been tasked with creating and retaining talent. The removal of these funds will continue to deeply impact our behavioral health workforce, especially those with culturally specific specialties, that we desperately need.

This is the first time funds were intentionally earmarked to serve black, brown and indigenous communities. Communities that have been most impacted by the war on drugs. Communities that continue to be expelled from services because providers don't understand their culture or values, or don't speak their language. Even those included by the presentation today are also being exploited. Communities that have nowhere to go, communities that are being sent to jail, communities that are dying because the system has failed them. Ripping Measure 110 funding away from black, brown and indigenous communities will be tragic.

We, the measure 110 grantees, are picking up the pieces of a broken behavioral health system. Yes the funds were late, but we got to work right away. In the last 60 days, my organization Juntos, which consists of 2 coordinators, has assisted over 100 black, brown and indigenous individuals with their recovery goals. We have connected folks to peer services, treatment, shelters, transitional housing, clean and sober housing, and eviction prevention services. We have gotten people and families off the street. We also provided rental assistance, employment navigation, education, training and basic needs. These basic

needs are things like hygiene products, groceries, clothing, shoes, emergency transportation, medication, access to overdose prevention medicine, and cell phones to stay connected to their treatment groups and programs as many are now virtual. All possible because of measure 110 funds, and this was just the first 60 days.

Our success is greatly due to the fact that we speak the language of the community we serve, we share similar cultural values, we share similar stories, and WE LOOK LIKE THEM!!! Because of M110 resources we are creating hope, building trust, creating a community that believes that people will and do recover. We are saving lives...

If you decide to rip these funds away from measure 110, I request that this committee make a public statement or have a town hall and explain to black, brown and indigenous Oregonians why you failed them again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jose Luis Garcia', written in a cursive style.

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