

RE: Testimony to Oppose HB 2089

Dear Vice-Chairs Reshke and Walters, and Members of the House Committee on Revenue,

To state for the record, my name is Aishiki Nag, and I'm a senior at Tigard High School. I am personally coming out in strong opposition to HB 2089, which would re-allocate money away from Oregon's Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act - Measure 110. Measure 110 is a necessary pathway to remedying Oregon's status of providing the lowest access to critical addiction recovery services. It is imperative that Measure 110 be fully supported, not defunded and undermined. This measure was also historical and monumental, because it showed that Oregonians would treat the issue of drug abuse as a community concern, rather than a crime.

Measure 110 was popular and passed in strong support from Oregonian voters, with an overwhelming 17 point margin. The people of Oregon care about addiction treatment in Oregon, and they want this sentiment to be reflected within their legislature. Oregonians want there to be support and funding to help one another, and it's important to respect these wishes when looking into reallocation of funds.

The act of defunding Measure 110, is also premature due to the Treasurer's report and plan for the assessment of the program's success. Even if the current level of funding for Measure 110 remained the same and was not cut by bills like HB 2089, Oregon would still need to nearly double funds for addiction recovery services in order to meet community needs. Yet HB 2089 aims to defund and undermine Measure 110 by cutting over 40 million dollars from Behavioral Resource Networks (BHRNs), i.e., the providers that provide addiction recovery services, and redirect these monies to Oregon's law enforcement. Oregon has one of the highest needs for programs to help combat drug abuse in communities. It is not fair to judge the success of a program prematurely, and act hastily to make changes in allocation of money.

With these previous considerations, I would strongly urge the committee to vote against HB 2089.

Aishiki Nag

