



Testimony in Opposition of HB 2089
Gloria Ochoa-Sandoval, Unite Oregon
February 1, 2023

Chair Nathanson and members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of House Bill 2089. My name is Gloria Ochoa-Sandoval and I am the Policy Director at Unite Oregon. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our 32,000 members. Our organization is led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty.

Unite Oregon members worked tirelessly to pass Measure 110 in 2020 and have continued to advocate for proper implementation for years. Over and over we have had to fight to protect the funds and the purpose of this legislation. Our voters demanded funding for addiction services and that is not up for debate. The intent of this concept was to decrease engagement with law enforcement and instead provide resources for our communities to heal. HB 2089 would bring significant cuts to Oregon's behavioral health system. It would also allocate the cut funds towards law enforcement. Not once have we received a request to propose or represent bills that bring more funds towards law enforcement. Our membership has often asked for greater investments in health and recovery, social work, community resources, and community diversion programs. We are asking for help, not punishment.

Governor Kotek, and lawmakers across party lines committed at the beginning of this session to double down on addressing Oregon's addiction and houseless crisis. As we work to reimagine our criminal legal system, one of the first changes we can



make is to invest in the wellness of our communities. Oregonians deserve a chance to make change for themselves. We ask you to vote no on HB 2089.

Thank you,

Gloria Ochoa-Sandoval

She/her

Policy Director,

Unite Oregon