



February 7, 2023

Dear Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke & Walters, and committee members:

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Council for Behavioral Health. OCBH is the statewide association of primarily nonprofit providers that deliver treatment for substance use disorders and mental illness. Our member organizations serve individuals living with the chronic diseases of addiction and mental illness. It is likely the behavioral health providers in your districts are members of OCBH and it is likely these very providers are beneficiaries of Measure 110's investment in substance use disorder services.

We write you in opposition to HB 2089. The simple fact is that for decades, mental health and addiction have been stigmatized, leading to a lack of attention and resources dedicated to this very critical work. This underpayment for critical services has compounded over the years, leaving providers with little room to grow and update facilities, without the budget to support their workforce, and with the crisis we find ourselves in today.

Last session we took one step forward for investment in behavioral health. Diverting dollars from Measure 110-funded services now, as HB 2089 proposes, would amount to two steps back. OHSU estimates Oregon's ability to prevent and treatment substance use is 49% under capacity, meaning we need to double the existing capacity for substance use disorder services. This requires strong, stable funding and a serious commitment from the state.

We are a sector attempting to climb out of years of disinvestment. We need the legislature's support to continue expanding investment, not a discussion about cuts. Please vote no on HB 2089.

Thank you,

Heather Jefferis, MA  
Executive Director  
Oregon Council for Behavioral Health