



Dear members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care,

My name is Meredith Wadlington and I am a resident of Southeast Portland. I am happy to write to you today, as a constituent of Chair Nosse, in support of Measure 110. I am also writing to you as a Policy Coordinator for the statewide organization Unite Oregon, which represents over 30,000 Oregonians.

Among our membership at Unite Oregon, folks across the state are deeply engaged in reimagining community safety. We know that separating folks from their communities through incarceration is not an effective way to address substance use, nor is it in line with our values as Oregonians. As elected leaders, you have a unique opportunity to lead the nation in providing alternative pathways to addiction treatment that reduce substance abuse, restores communities, and saves money. Measure 110 is that path forward.

A program as ambitious as Measure 110 is bound to have its challenges with rollout and implementation. However, we believe that it is the duty of our elected officials to enhance and grow the program in its infancy so that it becomes more robust and efficient.

At Unite Oregon, I have heard from countless providers and their clients about the impacts of Measure 110 in our communities. Here's what folks are saying: measure 110 funding has opened up new programs, provided sober housing, and helped keep families together, ultimately saving lives. Thanks to these programs, our community is safer and healthier.

As we look to the next step of this implementation process, I urge the committee to be courageous and visionary in its efforts to keep our communities safe, healthy, and vibrant: to find solutions that break the cycle of harm and oppression, rather than solutions that further loss and separate people from their families, friends, and communities.

I ask the committee to support HB 2513 and protect Measure 110. In closing, I leave you with these words from transformative justice leader, adrienne maree brown:

"I know that ending harm may be far off yet, even unimaginable, but I also believe that the future is already alive in each of us, because all the generations to come live within the bodies, cultures, dreams, and shaping of those alive today. I believe a future where

harm is the anomaly is already rooting in our communities. I know that we are co-creating the future with each word, each action, and with our attention.”

Sincerely,
Meredith Wadlington
Unite Oregon