

Submitter: Monta Knudson  
On Behalf Of: Bridges to Change  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2513

Distinguished Chair Nosse, esteemed Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and honored members of the House Committee on Behavioral Health Care, my name is Monta Knudson, and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Bridges to Change, an organization providing M110 services across four counties in the state of Oregon. I appreciate the opportunity to address this committee and convey our unequivocal support for House Bill 2513.

Bridges to Change has actively participated in the workgroup dedicated to the development of HB 2513, collaborating with a diverse range of stakeholders in order to enhance the implementation of Measure 110. This proposed legislation is grounded in the fundamental principles vital to the success of Measure 110, encompassing timely, efficient, transparent, and accountable allocation of funds. HB 2513 is designed to support our most vulnerable populations, recognizing the disproportionate impact of addiction and insufficient services on Oregon's Black and brown communities. By sustaining and expanding culturally appropriate local services, we can mitigate these disparities and foster more resilient communities.

I wholeheartedly encourage this committee to endorse HB 2513, which aims to refine the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the Oregon Health Authority's administration of Measure 110. The bill proposes the consolidation of substance use hotlines, enhancement of grant-making processes, and the assurance of the long-term sustainability of Measure 110 funding. Furthermore, our organization is dedicated to the expansion of crucial services in four counties, which include:

- Increasing peer services in Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, and Wasco County, adding 64 new staff across the four counties.
- Increasing housing access by adding 202 new low barrier supportive housing beds across four counties.
- Expanding low-barrier substance use disorder health care services by offering a low-barrier assessment service in each county and increasing capacity for walk-in and on-demand behavioral health care.

As a provider that is committed to serving those in need, we ask for your continued support to provide these vital services. These initiatives take time, but by supporting HB 2513, we can continue to make progress in addressing addiction and providing essential services to those in need throughout Oregon.

Finally, I want to emphasize that we, the providers, are exhausted from doing more with less. The amount of time we spend protecting funding hinders our ability to focus on strategic work and expansion. By supporting HB 2513, you are supporting us, and in turn, supporting those in need.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.