

March 28, 2023

Greetings Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson and members of the House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care,

Our names are Brittiny Raine, Dylan Weil, and Breanna Tupper and we are the Executive Directors and Program Manager for Community Outreach through Radical Empowerment (CORE) in Lane County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide our testimony, on behalf of CORE, in support of HB 2513.

CORE is a recipient of Measure 110 dollars. Our agency works with youth and young adults aged 16-29. We only received BHRN funds this past fall, but I can tell you that during the amount of time we have had access to these funds we have been able to:

- Help house multiple program participants who faced homelessness;
- Pay fees and back-dated rent to keep participants safely housed;
- Pay debts on behalf of participants to remove barriers to housing and future home ownership:
- Purchase items for participants new apartments so they did not have to start their new housing journey without anything to furnish their homes:
- Purchase items for expecting participants so they did not have to worry about vital items for their children while also worrying about housing, income, and being a parent:
- Assist in vital document recoveries, including paying for participants to get their licenses or other IDs back so that they can apply for housing and employment;
- Began the process of starting the first expungement clinic in Lane County in partnership with the Lane County Public Defender's office to help our clients remove old charges from their records that have created often insurmountable barriers to getting a job, renting an apartment, or even applying for certain professional licenses:
- Help provide funds for education endeavors and vocational training:
- Give our out hundreds of doses of naloxone, fentanyl test strips and other critical survival supplies so that our community can ensure the safety that comes with preparedness and education:
- Provide a safe space for youth who use drugs to explore their recovery options and life goals without judgment.

Our organization is not only working to help people keep themselves safe and alive — we are also providing youth with many supports that some of them have not had the

opportunity to experience within traditional systems. We are putting the power back in the hands of the youth who are the experts in their own lives so that they may live what they consider to be a self directed and fulfilled life. We are empowering youth to build their own sense of community. The services we provide to our participants that use drugs are not only focused on the emergencies that come about from substance use, such as a lack of housing and resources, but to also address some of the causes of substance use-poverty, a lack of community, a lack of acceptance within society, and a lack of education about their options. Most of all, we do our best to help participants realize their own inherent sense of worthiness no matter their circumstances or if they want to stop using at this time. We would not be able to reach as many participants without the help of Measure 110 funding.

HB 2513 will improve the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of the Oregon Health Authority's administration of Measure 110, consolidate Oregon's substance use hotlines, and enhance the Oregon Accountability Council's grant-making processes. By supporting HB 2513, we can ensure the continued success and long-term viability of Measure 110 funding for the benefit of all Oregonians. I urge you to pass HB 2513 to strengthen Measure 110.

Sincerely,

Brittany Raine, Executive Director

Dylan Weil, Executive Director

Breanna Tupper, Community Program Manager

Community Outreach through Radical Empowerment