

Submitter: Michelle Graas

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2513

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

I'm writing today to urge your support of HB 2513, which will enhance the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability of Oregon Health Authority's administration of Measure 110 by consolidating substance use hotlines, improving grant-making processes, and ensuring the long-term viability of Measure 110 funding.

As you know, Measure 110 has already begun delivering essential services to Oregonians in need: more than 60,000 of us have received services, and \$302 million in funding has been allocated to providers across our state. This has resulted in the opening of new programs, sober housing, and expanded youth and adult services which are already improving the lives of so many in our communities.

But so much remains to be done -- and that's where your support for HB 2513 is so desperately needed. The Hope and Recovery bill keeps our state's commitment to increase the availability of free, local services for people struggling with substance use. It will do this through increased oversight and accountability, more timely distribution of funding, and redoubling the implementation of proven, public health approaches to addiction services and treatment.

There are two main reasons why I support HB 2513. First, I believe this bill will help eligible Oregonians and their families by clarifying Measure 110's language to center culturally- and linguistically-sound services that serve the communities most targeted and harmed by the racist war on drugs. It will provide essential resources to help families struggling with addiction as well as fund the development of local behavioral health workforces, creating community-centered employment with a living wage.

I further believe that HB 2513 will support Measure 110 in funding many of the services not typically covered by Medicaid and extending those services to even more Oregonians. This helps ensure that people without financial means do not fall through the cracks of our system simply because they can't afford to pay for essential care. This is a matter of urgency, as over 25% of Oregon's households do not have enough income to meet their basic needs, as revealed by census data.

Too many Oregonians are suffering. Enacting HB 2513 will address some of that pain, and I urge you to support this legislation.

Thank you very much for your consideration and your service to our state.

Michelle Graas  
Portland