



To: Members of the House Committee on Rules
From: Ron Williams, Health Justice Recovery Alliance
Date: April 20, 2023
Re: Support for HB 3610

Chair Fahey, members of the House Committee on Rules, my name is Ron Williams and I am the Outreach Director for the Health Justice Recovery Alliance.

I write to you in support of House Bill 3610. The Health Justice Recovery Alliance is a coalition of organizations providing addiction treatment and recovery services under Ballot Measure 110 which was passed by the Oregon voters in 2020. Measure 110 decriminalized small amounts of possession of controlled substances and created a funding stream for growing addiction treatment and recovery services in Oregon.

An important part of the work to understand and address the addiction crisis is HB 3610, which will create a task force to help the legislature better understand the full nature, scope, and extent of the alcohol crisis in Oregon. The bill will equip us with the information we need to most effectively and efficiently deliver alcohol addiction services where they are needed most.

HJRA does believe that the bill can be enhanced by the inclusion of additional workgroup members. We know from our work that individuals with lived experience are issue area experts and provide critical input and insight to shape public policy. They are all too often an afterthought in the policymaking process. We know that the policymaking process and participation in workgroups and task forces can be inaccessible for the vast majority of Oregonians. Specifically, we believe that including BIPOC communities, especially those with lived experience relating to alcohol addiction and Tribal Communities, especially those with lived experience relating to alcohol addiction is necessary.

Legislative leadership, Governor Kotek, and lawmakers across party lines committed at the beginning of this session to double down on addressing Oregon's addiction and houseless crisis. In addition to protecting and increasing



funding for our entire behavioral health system, HB 3610 will provide us information to better understand the scope of the state's alcohol crisis and gain insight into how to most effectively and efficiently deliver services.

I, and the members of the Health Justice Recovery Alliance, urge you to support House Bill 3610, which will provide access to justice for many Oregonians.

Ron Williams, on behalf of the Health Justice Recovery Alliance