

## **Testimony In Support of HB2513, Ebony Clarke, Behavioral Health Director**

### **5.3.23**

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, members of the Committee, for the record, my name is Ebony Clarke and I am the Behavioral Health Director at the Oregon Health Authority. I am here today in support HB 2513.

I'd like to start by thanking Representative Nosse for his leadership to make this program work.

Through the direction of the Oversight and Accountability Council, the Measure 110 program has created 42 BHRN's across all 36 counties in the state through over 230 separate grant agreements.

This means there is at least one network of low-barrier services in each county at no cost to the individual accessing services. Already, there have been more than 60,000 service encounters across these categories.

Earlier this year, an important audit identified key areas for growth. The recommendations in the audit have given us a clear pathway to improvement. They are also basis for many of the legislative fixes contained in HB 2513.

This legislation developed in partnership with a workgroup including community experts:

- Helps to clarify the roles and authority of OHA and the Oversight and Accountability Council.
- Addresses bureaucratic and administrative barriers to grant and program oversight and administration
- Creates a strong foundation for doing this important work over the long term.

OHA appreciates the work done by Rep. Nosse and by the work group including the further clarifications and technical fixes included in the adopted -3 amendment

We urge you to support this legislation so that the agency, the BHRNs and our other partners can focus on the critical work of tackling Oregon's addiction crisis and helping the process of healing and recovery.

Thank you