



May 5, 2023

Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: ACLU Budget Priorities

Dear Chair Sanchez and Chair Steiner, Vice-Chair Girod, Vice-Chair Gomberg, Vice-Chair Smith, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon. The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 27,000 members statewide.

The ACLU writes to urge you to prioritize **passage and funding of SB 337 and HB 2467**, as these are essential measures to help repair Oregon's public defense crisis and ensure that Oregon can ensure this foundational Constitutional right to counsel.

We further urge your committee to prioritize **passage and funding of SB 579** and to guarantee the right to vote to incarcerated individuals.

In addition to these three vital bills, we would share the following budget priorities:

1. **HB 2650 – Equitable Work Groups:** Ensuring equitable policy outcomes by requiring task forces and workgroups to include the people who are most affected by these policies.
2. **HB 2990 – Community Resilience Hubs:** Investing in community resilience hubs that allow Oregon communities to survive disasters and thrive.
3. **SB 619 – The consumer justice privacy task force:** Creating a pathway for clear and reasonably accessible records of Oregon consumers' tracked data is an essential civil rights protection against tech-driven harms.
4. **SB 610 – Food for All / Hunger Free Oregon:** Creating a program to ensure everyone in Oregon has access to the food we need.

Finally, we urge your committee **not to pass HB 2772**, which would create an unnecessary and harmful domestic terrorism law.

Thank you for your support and attention on these vital issues for Oregonians civil rights and liberties.

Respectfully,

Emily Hawley
Senior Policy Associate
ACLU of Oregon

Dear Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon. The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights across our state.

The ACLU of Oregon supports House Bill 2513 which will help Measure 110-funded providers continue efforts to support recovery, save lives, and redress the deeply entrenched harm of the “war on drugs” on BIPOC communities.

In 2020, Oregonians passed Measure 110 by an overwhelming 17-point margin. With this vote, Oregonians championed an evidence-based and treatment-focused response to our state’s addiction crisis. The people of Oregon also issued their legislature a mandate to treat addiction as a health condition rather than a crime.

More than 60,000 people have already benefited from Measure 110 services, new programs have been established, and sober housing options have opened across the state. Measure 110 has helped serve the communities most targeted and harmed by the war on drugs and prioritized bilingual and culturally specific services. The influx of funding not only helps Oregonians struggling with addiction but has helped develop communities’ behavioral health workforce, creating jobs for people to help others in their own communities.

The Hope and Recovery Bill championed by Rep. Nosse aims to finetune voters’ vision, fix issues with Measure 110’s initial implementation, and improve the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in OHA’s administration of this essential program. This bill is a crucial step for setting Measure 110 up for long-term success.

Oregon’s addiction health crisis grew over decades. Only when the community organized and championed a ballot initiative did we see any real effort to address our addiction crisis. **The ACLU of Oregon urges lawmakers to look to the people’s leadership and to pass House Bill 2513 out of committee.**

