

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Public Services Building

2051 KAEN ROAD | OREGON CITY, OR 97045

April 10, 2025

Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response Oregon State Capitol 900 Court St NE Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Kropf, and members of the Joint Committee.

Thank you for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 881 and for the opportunity to provide testimony on this item.

There was a theme in the bills considered during the hearing on April 9. That theme is a lack of confidence in the M110 Oversight and Accountability Council to manage the formulas related to curbing substance use in Oregon.

HB 3576 is trying to remove the deflection formula from the M110 OAC. SB 610 is trying to correct the process, increase transparency, and improve the formula so that BHRNs (Behavioral Health Resource Networks) can have predictability and be effective. SB 881 is an interesting bill because it tries to do both those things one bill. I applaud the simplicity of that effort.

I do believe that there are good ideas in all three bills. And I am very encouraged by the work the counties are doing behind the scenes to help SB 610 find a path forward.

The addictions crisis is real. This Joint Committee took action last year with HB 4002, adding resources and connections to bridge the work happening across Oregon. And I appreciate the creative approach to let counties pilot various deflection programs based on their community needs and available funds.

SB 881 brings a fresh perspective to the addiction crisis work, in a comprehensive package. As you hear from experts and constituents, consider the several bills in front of you, and determine the appropriate course forward for Oregon, I want to leave you with my clear support to take action. I think we can all agree, regardless of party or geographic area, that we need to get Oregonians suffering from addictions the help they need, as fast as we can get it to them.

In that, you have Clackamas County's support.

Sincerely,

Ben West, Commissioner

Clackamas County Board of Commissioners