



**Submitted to the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response
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Testimony in Neutrality on SB 610

By: Shannon Wight, Deputy Director of Partnership for Safety and Justice

Co-Chair Prozanski, Co-Chair Kropf, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in neutrality to SB 610. For the record, my name is Shannon Wight and I am the Deputy Director of Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ). PSJ advocates for public safety policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 25 years, our work has promoted community and public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest in communities across Oregon.

When Measure 110 was approved by the voters in 2020, the Oversight and Accountability Council (OAC) was established to grant funds to eligible providers. It has bolstered small community-based organizations, allowing many to grow their service areas and populations. It also purposefully gave grantmaking authority to organizations who had not had an ability to participate in such processes previously.

The major change proposed in SB 610 is to make the OAC an advisory body that will recommend funding decisions to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA).

Should the Legislature make this policy decision, we would encourage the bill to allow for the OAC to retain some direct grantmaking authority to allow for it to continue bolstering small organizations serving historically underrepresented populations.

PSJ believes that having folks with lived experience with substance use disorders and treatment retaining decision-making authority over at least some of the M110 funds is critical. In this model, people with lived experience could be supported in making the best possible decisions. OHA would provide the OAC with a full picture of funding choices and make recommendations to the OAC on grant making.

It is our understanding that OAC members were given hundreds of pages in applications to navigate and were not given a full picture to understand what the grant requests were compared to providers' current service level. This structure did not set the OAC up for the best possible success.

Allowing the OAC to continue to manage some grant funds to continue the work of bolstering small culturally-specific organizations, with appropriate staffing, across the state is important. The voices of people with lived experience are critical to providing perspectives on needed services that are historically overlooked. When not addressed, this can result in the creation of huge gaps in community safety services.

Such a fund could operate similar to the Justice Reinvestment Equity Program (JREP), which over the past few years has bolstered small organizations into powerful service providers under the Justice Reinvestment Initiative umbrella. It could also operate similarly to the Joint Emergency Board, and could make granting decisions should emergent needs come up between grant cycles.

We appreciate your consideration.