



March 11th, 2021

House Judiciary Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 3112

Chair Bynum, Vice Chair Noble and members of the committee,

My name is Andrea Valderrama and I am here representing the American Civil Liberties Union of Oregon (ACLU of Oregon). We are a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 28,415 members statewide. We are here today in support of HB 3112.

Drug decriminalization has been a longstanding issue for the ACLU of Oregon. In 2014, we supported the legalization of marijuana, and this year supported Ballot Measure 110, which further decriminalized drug possession. Oregon voters overwhelmingly passed Ballot Measure 110, the Oregon Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act, and the ACLU of Oregon has been working with many coalition partners to ensure implementation runs smoothly, and that treatment services voters approved are provided as quickly as possible.

In addition to decriminalization, the ACLU of Oregon's policy portfolio has expanded to include economic justice advocacy. HB 3112 lays out economic opportunities for equity licenses for American Indian, Alaska Native, Black, Hispanic or Latinx, or other groups that have been historically disproportionately arrested for marijuana-related crimes. We strongly support this approach and believe that these economic opportunities should be accessible, especially in the wake of the economic crisis the COVID 19 pandemic has brought to Oregonians.

We also appreciate the creation of the Oregon Equity Cannabis Board, and the representation of culturally specific community based organizations, and local equity experts and leaders it will provide. Leading with race is essential as we chart a path forward in destigmatizing the cannabis industry and having these voices part of decisions that impact their communities is the right approach.

The ACLU of Oregon supports both the equitable and quick implementation of Ballot Measure 110 and cannabis equity work, and we hope they can be implemented in a way to meet the spirit of what the voters intended, and using racial and economic justice values.

The ACLU of Oregon urges you to support HB 3112.

Thank you,

Andrea Valderrama, Policy Director
ACLU of Oregon