

Chair Prozanski, members of the committee.

My name is Eric Richardson and I serve as the Executive Director of the Eugene/Springfield NAACP.

On behalf of the members of the NAACP, I'd like to thank the people of Oregon for Passing Measure 110. In 2020 Oregon was confronted by multiple choices. In our homes, places of employment, and at the polls. Oregonians participated at the national level one way or the other, but at home Oregonians by a large measure stood up in support of a shift to a health conscious approach to addiction and recovery services.

Over the last year, many of us have had to shift our way of doing business as we responded to wildfires and the Pandemic and SB755 is perfectly timed to help us continue with needed shifts to increase access to recovery services in our State. The Pandemic has heightened the stress and determinants that already existed in historically disadvantaged communities.

In Lane County alone during the last two months, there have been two substantial clusters of overdose deaths. Going forward we hope you will support the steps to provide modern, accessible and when needed culturally responsive treatment with an eye on providing life changing interventions, harm reduction services and housing to those who want and need it. We at the NAACP encourage your support of SB 755.

Sincerely,
Eric Richardson
Executive Director
Eugene/Springfield NAACP