

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of SB 755. I am writing on behalf of IBEW 48. For over one hundred years, the skilled, trained, professional, and certified Journeyman and Apprentice Electricians of IBEW Local 48 have helped the cities of Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington, as well as their surrounding areas, grow and prosper. We represent approximately 4,000 members who work in a wide variety of fields, including inside electrical construction, telecommunications, broadcasting, electrical manufacturing, maintenance and marine.

Drug addiction impacts all kinds of people across Oregon, including workers. Even workers who aren't addicted to drugs are impacted by addiction because we have friends, family, colleagues and co-workers who are. One in 10 Oregonians are addicted to drugs, and nearly two people in Oregon die every day from overdose, according to the federal government.

To truly build an economy that works for everyone, we need an adequate system to address drug addiction. Unfortunately, right now we don't have such a system. Our state ranks nearly last in the nation in access to addiction treatment for those who need it. Low-income households particularly struggle to find access to the treatment they need. Treatment is unavailable in many parts of the state, and unaffordable to many of the rest of us.

Together we can invest in a system that's more humane, equitable, effective and cost-effective. The Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act provides the framework for that system. That's why we supported Ballot Measure 110, along with other major labor unions in the state representing thousands of Oregon workers. And that's why we support SB 755, and urge you to swiftly pass it so that Oregonians can begin to benefit from more access to drug addiction recovery services,

By fully implementing the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act, we can help our communities thrive, keep families whole and open up economic opportunities. Our cause is the cause of human justice, human rights, and human security. Our object is to organize all workers in the entire electrical industry working in our jurisdiction into our Local Union. We believe in cultivating feelings of friendship among those in our industry, assisting each other in sickness or distress, securing adequate pay for our work in order to achieve a higher standard of living, seeking security for our individual members, and by legal and proper means elevating the moral, intellectual, and social conditions of our members and their families. SB 755 aligns with our mission and values by ensuring that Oregon workers and their families have access to the healthcare they need to recover from addiction and get their lives back on track. Please support SB 755 and do everything in your power to implement the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act.