

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,

I am writing on behalf of Basic Rights Oregon in support of SB 755. Basic Rights Oregon works to build a strong, vibrant, powerful, and progressive movement for LGBTQ equality, and fight for policies that meet the varied needs of our diverse community. SB 755 is one of these key policies that will meet a tremendous need in the LGBTQ+ community.

Oregon's addiction and overdose crisis disproportionately impact the LGBTQ+ community. SB 755 will increase access to low-barrier, culturally-responsive treatment, recovery, housing and harm-reduction services to those who need and want it. This bill is an urgently-needed step to help our communities heal.

The trauma and marginalization that LGBTQ+ communities face because of homophobia and transphobia make our communities particularly vulnerable to addiction, homelessness, and mental health struggles. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, LGBTQ people are twice as likely to experience addiction, and only half as likely to have access to treatment. Funding the addiction recovery services as outlined in the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act through SB 755 will provide life-saving interventions to keep members of our community safe and help those struggling with addiction in their recovery journey.

Last November Oregonians passed Ballot Measure 110 by a 17 point margin. Voters recognized the tremendous need to shift to a health-based approach to addiction and increase access to addiction recovery services in our state. LGBTQ+ communities need access to addiction recovery services that meet our needs, and SB 755 makes these services more accessible throughout Oregon. Please support SB 755; in doing so you will save lives.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Haque
Executive Director