



**FAMILY FORWARD**  
**OREGON**

*Smart policies for today's families.*

March 1, 2021

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 755

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation

Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, and Members of the Committee:

At Family Forward Oregon we fight for economic and reproductive justice for all mamas and caregivers in Oregon. We work to pass bold, statewide laws that will allow us to not just survive, but thrive—laws like paid family and medical leave insurance and universal child care. We support SB 755 because it aligns with our work to address the over-incarceration of mothers and moves towards our vision for a world where everyone has access to the care they need.

Treating addiction as a healthcare issue is the right thing to do. Such an approach treats individuals with the dignity and respect we all want and expect for ourselves. We have witnessed the debilitating effects of drug addiction on parents, caregivers and families, and know it is past time we thoughtfully address this insidious problem with a rational and treatment focused approach. The Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act offers such an approach, expanding access to critical addiction recovery services across the state that will keep families together, foster healing, and create stronger, more resilient communities.

Right now, there are thousands of Oregonians who are ready for and want drug treatment, but they are unable to access it. Weeks or even months long wait lists have become the norm, but people in crisis cannot wait that long. It is imperative that we pass SB 755 and implement the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act without delay, as voters intended, to make these critical services available to people on-demand. In doing so we will create a stronger, more just Oregon. On behalf of our organization and the mothers and caregivers we serve, we strongly urge you to support SB 755.

Sincerely,

Courtney Helstein  
Political Director