

Submitter: Renee Yandel

On Behalf Of: HIV Alliance

Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Measure: HB4016

February 2nd, 2022

House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Good morning Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Cate and Kropf, and members of the House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity,

My name is Renee Yandel, I am the Executive Director of HIV Alliance. We provide HIV care coordination and support services, HIV prevention and harm reduction services multiple Oregon counties. I would like to share my opposition to the funding source proposed to fund the adoption of the -3 amendment to HB 4016. Addressing illegal marijuana operations is a critical need and these sites are negatively impacting communities where our staff, supporter and clients live, however reducing funds available for critical harm reduction and addiction recovery services in these communities is not the answer.

HIV Alliance received an Access to Care grant in 2021 funded by Measure 110. Thanks in part to that funding we were able to provide overdose prevention and harm reduction services to over 3,000 Oregonians across Lane, Jackson, Josephine, Marion, Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties. We distributed over 12,000 doses of Naloxone, collected over 1.1 million syringes, and reversed 513 overdoses. That is 513 Oregonians who might not be here today if it wasn't for these lifesaving services. The -3 amendment of HB 4016 would cut Measure 110 services by \$29 million per biennium. In 2021, that same amount of money has helped over 16,000 people across Oregon access critical harm reduction and addiction recovery services.

With overdose deaths on the rise across the country, and new data from SAMHSA showing Oregon ranks second in the nation for substance use disorder and 50th in addiction and recovery services, the need to continue to fully fund Measure 110 services could not be more urgent. Next month, \$270 million more is slated to be invested in increased access to lifesaving services including housing, peer support, harm reduction, overdose prevention and low-barrier recovery treatment services in every Oregon County. HIV Alliance has applied to be part of the Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRNs) established by M110. If our application is approved, we will be able to expand access to desperately needed services to more rural Oregonians.

The Oversight & Accountability Council received applications for \$390 million to support the creation of Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRNs), and they

only have \$270 million to spend. We simply cannot afford to cut these services. At a time when our behavioral health system is already strained by COVID-19, and we're facing a crisis of preventable overdose deaths, I urge you to uphold the will of the voters and reject the -3 amendment and any attempt to cut Measure 110 funding.

Thank you for your work on this important issue. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,
Renee Yandel