

Submitter: Martin Allums

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Measure: HB4016

I am writing to you today to testify in opposition to the adoption of the -3 amendments to HB 4016. While I am not opposed to the substance of the amendment; I am fully opposed to its funding source because it would reduce access to critical harm reduction and addiction recovery services and limit programs abilities to expand existing services.

The -3 amendment of HB 4016 would cut Measure 110 services by \$29 million per biennium. Last year, the legislature invested \$31 million in M110 services to expand access to vital addiction treatment, peer supported recovery, harm reduction, and housing services. In just six months, 16,000 Oregonians were helped by these lifesaving services. This is incredibly important work that provides hope during a national spike in overdose deaths.

From 2011-2017, Oregon dropped from the 40th to the 49th rank for mental health outcomes out of 51 states (including D.C.) . Oregon has higher drug and alcohol use as well, ranking 5th in alcohol related deaths. With overdose deaths on the rise across the country, and new data from SAMHSA showing Oregon now 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.

The Oversight & Accountability Council received applications from service providers for \$390 million to support the creation of Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRNs), which will provide access to low-barrier addiction recovery services in every Oregon County. This is about \$110 million more than the OAC had available to issue to grantees. We simply cannot afford to cut these funds.

This is the absolute wrong time to make cuts. Oregon voters approved M110 by a 17 point margin. M110 is just getting started, and our behavioral health system is already strained by COVID-19. Please uphold the will of the voters and provide needed support to our struggling behavioral health system by rejecting any attempt to cut Measure 110 funding.