

Submitter: Ray Stangeland
On Behalf Of: Health Justice Recovery Alliance
Committee: House Committee On Economic Recovery and Prosperity
Measure: HB4016

Dear Chair Prozanski, Vice-Chair Thatcher, members of the committee,

My name is Dr. Ray Stangeland. I am a Board Certified Emergency Physician. I am licensed in the State of Oregon. I have over 40 years of Emergency Department service in our state. I have been on the front lines of treating those suffering from substance use disorder/addiction. I have witnessed the ravages of substance use disorder in a great many forms. I have seen the great harm it can cause to sufferers, families, and communities all over the state. I have, over and over, heard victims of substance use disorder be unable to receive services when they are ready to receive help. This has led to further harm and darker circumstances. Too many times to count, I have had to tell families their loved one has died. This is a task no Emergency Physician ever wants to do. Especially since Substance Use Disorder is a very treatable disease. Much research shows that effective treatment can save lives and rehabilitate the sufferers of this disease. All Oregonians suffer when substance use disorder is not treated. Almost everyone in the state of Oregon has a direct connection to this scourge through either their family or friendship circle.

I am here this morning to testify in opposition to the adoption of the -3 amendments to HB 4016. I am not opposed to the substance of the amendment. I am fully opposed to its fund source because it would reduce access to critical harm reduction and addiction recovery services. -3 amendments will cut \$29 million per biennium. (In just six months, that same amount of money has helped over 16,000 people across Oregon access critical harm reduction and addiction recovery services.)

Overdose deaths are on the rise across the country including the state of Oregon. According to SAMHSA data Oregon ranks second in the nation for substance use disorder and the state of Oregon ranks 50th in addiction and recovery services. Oregonians recognize that we are in a crisis and voted overwhelmingly approving M110 by a 17 point margin. The need to fund Measure 110 services could not be more urgent. The need is great. The time is now. We can make a difference.

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.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Ray G. Stangeland, MD
Physician