

Submitter: Margaret Boyland

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1587

I am a counseling trainee in the state of Oregon and I can say with 100% certainty that allocating measure 110 funds in this manner would be disastrous for Oregon communities across the board. Mental health advocates will agree that the last thing our communities need are more punitive measures going after farming practices that do not remotely address the larger issues affecting Oregon communities. There is a dire need for substance use treatment across all populations, especially since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. The call to re-allocate funding at this time of greatest need is thoroughly under-thought. Our communities do not need more punitive measures or police involvement; they need resources which support substance use treatment and self-efficacious change.

In times of crisis, it is necessary to focus all available resources on healing. This means directly placing resources into the hands of communities, who know best where their needs lie and how to meet them without excess waste, confusion or delay. Multiple empirical studies have emphasized the importance of having basic needs established before any change can take place. This means that the only effective route to addressing substance abuse (Or really all mental and physical health concerns) is through meeting the survival needs of the individual in a way that is stable, dignified and safe.

I work closely with a Native American community of confederated tribes of Oregon. With community-centered planning and development, they have utilized Measure funds in a way that will virtually eradicate homelessness, implementing transitional housing and a soon-to-be-built medical center. This is my dream for all of Oregon. If you reject this measure, I believe it is possible to make it a reality. Thank you