



Date: 2/3/2022

RE: Comments on HB 4016 -3

To: Chair Lively, Vice-Chairs Cate and Kropf and the members of the House Committee on Economic Recovery and Prosperity

Central City Concern (CCC) is a non-profit direct service organization that provides integrated primary and behavioral health care, supportive and affordable housing, and employment services to people impacted by homelessness, poverty and complex health needs. We serve 14,000 people annually. Our programs and properties span Senate Districts 17, 18, 21-25; and House Districts 33, 36, 42-48 and 50

Please do not support any legislation that will cut Measure 110 funding. This is the absolute wrong time to make cuts to behavioral health services; we cannot take steps backwards from the voter approved commitment to invest in behavioral health services. HB 4016 with the -3 amendments will result in the loss of \$32M per biennium for behavioral health screening, housing and employment interventions, harm reduction and peer support. This bill exclusively takes from the funds meant to go to the Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Account to implement Measure 110.

The Oversight and Accountability Council has not even gotten all the funding out the door to community organizations, seeing legislators support cutting this funding is devastating.

There is no shortage of demands on behavioral health and community-based providers to respond to this growing behavioral health crisis. The pandemic has exacerbated the lack of stable investment in our existing system of response. Please do not create more uncertainty by passing bills like this. This lack of commitment to behavioral health is so out of step with the demands from community, and even demands from elected leadership on providers.

CCC has received \$500,000 grant from Measure 110 to help open [River Haven](#), a recovery housing program for people experiencing homelessness who are struggling with substance use disorder. The site was purchased through Project Turnkey. The site's 30 units are filled by referrals from NARA and CCC's Puentes program. Measure 110 funding has been critical to opening this program, but it is not the only source of funds supporting this program. We are continuing to look for long-term funding would support this program for more than one year at a time. There is a lot of uncertainty, but we make it work because the community needs us to. We are piecing together funding from both government and non-governmental partners.

This is the nature of the behavioral health safety net. We are bridging funds together budget cycle after budget cycle, because of policy decisions that continually fail to provide stable funding for these services. It's this instability that perpetuates our



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behavioral health crisis and continues to [drag Oregon down to being one of the most ineffective states in the nation](#) to respond to the long running and deeply imbedded addiction crisis.

We thought Measure 110 would be different, that it could be a stable source of funds. But instead, we are begging you not to cut these funds before programs have even gotten a full year of funding.

Again, I can't stress enough, the funding hasn't even been fully deployed. The science shows us, and the voters agreed, we need a health-first approach, but that vision won't become a reality if we lack commitment from leaders like you all.

There is no reason the legislature couldn't direct funds already going to law enforcement from marijuana revenues for the purposes in the bill. The legislature could also add more general funds, adding to the \$25M that was already approved during the recent special session, to accomplish the activities in this bill. This work **does not need to be done at the expense of people struggling with substance use disorder.**

Please, please, please do not support cutting funding for Measure 110