



**Testimony Against HB 4016 -3**

**Khanh Le**

**February 7, 2022**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Khanh Le, Executive Director at Unite Oregon, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of our organization in opposition of the -3 amendment of HB 4016. Unite Oregon is led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty, and we work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice.

Over the past two years, Unite Oregon has been a leader in the effort to pass, fully fund and implement Measure 110. This issue is crucial to our communities across the state. People of color, specifically Black, Indigenous, Tribal, Native and Latinx communities, and low-income Oregonians, continue to be disproportionately harmed by Oregon's failed approach of treating addiction like a crime, rather than a health issue. Our communities are underrepresented in the healthcare system, while being overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

Thanks to this landmark law, people are no longer being arrested and jailed for possession of small amounts of drugs, which can saddle them with criminal records that create lifelong barriers to employment and housing. Instead, they are being connected to health and recovery services, including peer support, housing assistance, and harm reduction services to help them on their paths to recovery. We are now beginning to see the positive effects of Measure 110. In just six months, the \$31 Million that the Legislature granted in emergency M110 funding has helped over 16,000 people across Oregon access critical addiction recovery services.

The -3 amendment of HB 4016 would take about the same amount of funding, a total of \$29 Million, directly from Measure 110 services to utilize for illegal cannabis enforcement. While we recognize that addressing illegal cannabis operations across the state is important and deserves attention, we do not support the funding being taken from M110 services to do so. We know that this issue affects our communities, especially in southern Oregon where we have our Unite Oregon Rogue Valley Chapter. However, we believe that this issue must be addressed with another funding source, rather than taking funding away from M110 services.

We urge the committee to oppose the adoption of the -3 amendment of HB 4016. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Khanh Le  
Executive Director of Unite Oregon

## Testimony Talking Points

- Introduce yourself, your organization, and if you have a personal connection to the issue.
- 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 funding source because it would reduce access to critical harm reduction and addiction recovery services.
- The -3 amendment of HB 4016 would cut Measure 110 services by \$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.)
- 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.
  - Here are some details you could mention if it is related to your work:
  - 60% of those accessed harm reduction services.
  - 115 behavioral health staff were hired.
  - 4 peer recovery douglas were funded.
  - 12 vehicles were purchased to provide mobile treatment and harm reduction services.
  - 3 housing complexes and 10 tiny homes were purchased.
- 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.
- 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.

