

Subject: Continued Support for Measure 110 and Urgent Expansion of Treatment Resources - Ensuring Equitable Access to Recovery Services

Dear Chairs, Lieber and Kropf, and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response

I appreciate the opportunity to address the committee and share insights from Iron Tribe Network, a local non-profit dedicated to addressing homelessness and addiction. I commend the thoughtful approach taken by the committee in addressing the addiction crisis in our state.

I write to express my steadfast support for continuing the impactful work initiated by Measure 110 (M110) and to urge the committee to explore avenues for expanding treatment resources. The success of M110 demonstrates that a health-focused approach, as opposed to criminalization, is the key to addressing addiction and homelessness. I propose building on this success by ensuring that everyone seeking addiction recovery services can access them swiftly, easily, and in a manner that meets their unique needs.

One of the pressing issues highlighted by the OHSU (Oregon Health & Science University) Gap analysis is the significant shortfall in recovery housing beds, with an urgent need for at least 3,859 additional beds. I propose considering funding options, including Housing First dollars, to expand recovery housing. Notably, recovery housing has proven to be a cost-effective alternative, with costs ranging from \$600 to \$800 per month (\$8,400 per year) compared to the substantial expense of single residency SRO units, which can cost between \$250,000 to \$500,000 per unit.

In order to ensure equitable access to recovery services, especially for Black, Latinx, Indigenous, tribal, Native, and other communities of color disproportionately affected by the war on drugs, I call on the committee to maintain and expand current funding for culturally and linguistically specific addiction recovery providers. This targeted approach is crucial for addressing the unique needs of diverse communities and promoting inclusivity in addiction recovery services.

I echo the sentiment that we cannot expect the police to solve social problems such as mental illness, homelessness, or addiction. The emphasis should shift towards empowering mental health and drug treatment professionals, allowing the police to focus on violent crime. It is evident that we cannot arrest our way out of these complex issues.

It is my firm belief that everyone in Oregon who needs treatment should have access to it and a safe place to go afterward. To achieve this, I urge the legislature to fully fund services and collaboratively work on real solutions. By doing so, we can embark on a path to healing our communities and creating lasting positive change.

Thank you for your attention to these critical matters, and I remain available for any further information or discussion.

Sincerely,

Meli Rose
Iron Tribe Network
"PROVIDING SUPPORT ~ BUILDING COMMUNITY"
Director of Operations
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