

Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

I am a member of the Coos County Alcohol and Drug Planning Committee (LADPC). Our role is to identify needs and establish priorities for Alcohol, Tobacco, and other Drug (ATOD) Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services in Coos County. Like many Oregonians, I have loved ones that struggle with drug addiction and have lost friends to drug overdose. I am keenly aware of the serious drug addiction issues facing our communities.

I initially supported Ballot Measure 110 because it was marketed as a drastic new approach to addressing addiction issues in Oregon. The previous strategies were not working, before M110 Oregon had some of the highest rates of needing but not receiving SUD Treatment in the entire country. My communities on the South Coast had very little treatment and recovery options, and I had high hopes that M110 would finally address this need.

Like most Oregonians, I was disappointed at the slow roll out of M110 BHRN funds reaching my community. After significant delays, funding has now been released to our local BHRN recipients and most organizations are now fully staffed per their initial plan and grant request. The BHRN recipients in Coos County have been working tirelessly to meet the treatment needs of our community; there is now 24hour access to care, dozens of new Peer Supports have been hired, new programs have opened, and for the first time local treatment programs are working together to coordinate and expand outreach. We are just beginning to see positive outcomes from all these efforts in our communities. It would be devastating to have M110 repealed and BHRN funding taken away.

Despite the progress, we still do not have enough resources. Coos County does not currently have detoxification, inpatient, or residential treatment located within the county. Curry County has even less treatment options. There is no place to take publicly intoxicated people other than the emergency room. Overdoses are on the rise.

It is going to take years of work, increased investments, and collaboration to address the drug and alcohol addiction issues in Oregon. While there are clear issues with the implementation of Measure 110, and many valid concerns about the impacts of decriminalization, the new funding for treatment and recovery services is vital. A repeal of Measure 110 entirely would only take us backwards, and lead to worse outcomes for our communities. I am in support of making improvements to M110 if funding for treatment and recovery across the state remains a priority. I would like to see more opportunities for Local Alcohol and Drug Planning Committees to provide input on statewide funding allocation and priorities within our counties.

In addition to expanded funding and support for treatment and recovery, we also need increased investments in prevention, family support, housing, mental health, sobering centers, treatment for incarcerated individuals, harm reduction and naloxone, early intervention, and diversion programs.

Thank you for your leadership, and for the opportunity to provide input.

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