

Submitter: Terry Leckron Myers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB2089

Hello Chairperson and committee,
My name is Terry Leckron Myers and I am here to oppose HB 2089. I am a person who has been in the Behavioral Health field since 2000 and in long-term recovery for over 27 years from drugs and alcohol. As an Asian American I am committed to protecting and serving our community and not only advocate for Behavioral Health services to all who need it but also invite the API community to have a voice regarding gaining access to these funds for future programs.

I concur with my colleague's testimonies, Ron Williams, Andy Ko, and Julia Mines, and hope you will consider not passing HB2089

The fact that Oregon is 50th in the nation for services and that we Providers are counting on Measure 110 funds to continue offering the vital services they provide to some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Just as they are beginning to hire more staff and open new programs, HB 2089 brings more uncertainty to an already challenging workforce situation.

I am going to give a perfect example of how this funding is needed as well as changes people's lives. I had a person contact Mental Health and Addiction of Oregon who had just come out of detox from opioid disorder. They could not find a treatment bed, so our peer and BHRN navigator reached out to the BHRN partners to access MAT, sober housing, and residential treatment. Because of Measure 110, we were able to access MAT, services that day as well as emergency housing beds. The BRHN team was able to appeal the case and the person was able to enter into treatment and has been there for 60 days. When they are released from the treatment they will access peer-delivered services as well as culturally specific Behavioral health treatment.

Measure 110 allowed for this person to access rapid turnaround services with 6 BHRN partners highlighting 4 Measure 110 services.

Ripping Measure 110 funding away from our communities would be cruel. Doing so goes against the will of the voters, and would result in more people we love dying, more families being broken apart, and more barriers to care.

Thank you for your consideration,
Terry Leckron Myers
Evolve Director MHA AO