

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Reschke and Walters, Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Outside In, a Federally Qualified Health Center serving the Portland Metro Area, would like to testify in opposition of HB 2089.

Through Measure 110 Funding, Outside In has been able to begin the expansion of lifesaving Harm Reduction and Substance Use Disorder services. We are able to provide Peer Support from credentialed staff with lived experience, prescribe medication assisted treatment, supply safer drug use supplies and educate our communities on overdose prevention. All of these services are no barrier and accessible to everyone of every background, culture and ability because of Measure 110.

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.

When we are 50th in the nation for these services and are just beginning to build something new, this is not the time to cut funding.

A study by OHSU revealed that Oregon's treatment capacity is still at only about half of what it should be to meet the tremendous need for services. We shouldn't even be discussing cuts to behavioral health care this legislative session for those reasons alone.

Measure 110 has brought hope to Oregon families and communities struggling with substance use. By providing unprecedented funding to pay for treatment and lifting criminal penalties for use, Measure 110 is an integral part of Oregon's behavioral health services creating a system where people can get the help they need without losing their jobs, their children, or their dreams for the future. The best way to improve public safety is to continue growing the Measure 110 programs, not cutting them. HB 2089 would cut those services.

Outside In strongly urges you to stand with Oregon voters and the families in Oregon who are counting on you to protect Measure 110 funding for their loved ones. We must solve our addiction crisis and we can't go backwards.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KIKU JOHNSON." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Executive Director, Outside In, kikuj@outsidein.org