

Submitter: Justin Caouette
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Revenue
Measure: HB2089

I am a prevention services research scientist writing in opposition to HB 2089. Mental and behavioral health services are already squeezed too thin, with demand only projected to grow over the next decade. More funding for these services benefits EVERYONE by helping those who are struggling to become more productive members within their communities. Diverting substantial funds to more policing will only perpetuate the cycle of incarceration and substance use problems that are already costing millions. Studies provide ample evidence that cutting funding for mental and behavioral health services nearly always costs states and counties MORE in the long run: more money to house incarcerated people, more money to provide social services for people who cannot get the treatment they need to secure stable work and add to the economy, more money lost from downtown businesses that people don't want to visit.