



February 8, 2023

Chair Nathanson, Vice-Chairs Walters and Reschke, and members of the committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Coalition of Communities of Color in opposition to HB 2089. The Coalition of Communities of Color is an alliance of culturally-specific community based organizations dedicated to collective action for racial justice.

The war on drugs was really a war on communities of color. For over 50 years our communities were targeted—criminalized and traumatized —by racist drug war policies. These policies have had profoundly unequal outcomes for communities of color both within the criminal legal system and the healthcare system. People of color experience discrimination at every stage of the criminal legal system, while racist health systems and policies have also led to deep ethnic health inequities.

Thankfully, Oregon is moving away from failed, harmful drug war policies and embracing innovative solutions like Measure 110. Measure 110 is not only reducing racial disparities in drug arrests, but investing in culturally-specific, community organizations that provide critical services to the communities most harmed by racist drug policies.

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 creating a system where people can get the help they need without losing their jobs, their children, or their dreams for the future. HB 2089 would cut those services.

Please, stand with Oregon voters and the communities most harmed by the war on drugs; oppose HB 2089.

Sincerely,

Jenny Lee  
Deputy Director  
Coalition of Communities of Color