

Tuesday, March 22, 2023

Good afternoon Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Morgan and Nguyen, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 3431. I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the Iron Tribe Network. We are neutral on HB 3431, because while we support the policy itself we do not support taking millions of dollars away from currently funded Measure 110 services.

These cuts would have a huge impact on organizations like mine. Measure 110 providers are facing a 25% cut in funding to our services, due to the decrease in projected cannabis tax revenue. Oregon's latest cannabis tax revenue forecast shows a significant decrease in funds for future funding cycles. That's even more reason why we should protect Measure 110 funds for addiction recovery services just as voters intended.

My organization, the Iron Tribe Network, is a community organization committed to building community through wellness and recovery programs, including peer support and housing. Our main goal is to preserve families or assist in the reunification of families. Our recovery housing provides clean and sober living for families to help facilitate this healing. We are a peer run organization, doing this work through the empathetic lens of our own lived experiences.

We were awarded Measure 110 funds just five months ago. Our Measure 110-funded programs are just getting off the ground, and yet the positive impact on our communities is already being felt. Addiction recovery providers like us are counting on Measure 110 funds to continue working to meet the tremendous need for more recovery services. Utilizing Measure 110 funding as the source of revenue for this bill would not benefit the communities we serve. Instead it would only pit us against one another as we are forced to compete for scarce funds. Being forced to engage with such a process would be traumatic and unjust.

Measure 110 is the first time that funds of this scale have been invested specifically for addiction recovery services to benefit the communities most harmed by the war on drugs. We've been advocating for culturally specific services for years, and thanks to Measure 110, we're able to finally expand. Thanks to Measure 110, we're operating in four counties and are part of two rural BHRNS, which are Measure 110-funded behavioral health resource networks.

Measure 110 funding is enabling us to provide recovery housing and peer support for individuals and families in Multnomah, Columbia, Clatsop and Marion Counties. The

demand for recovery housing is high, particularly in Marion County. Our new Marion County home was full on the first day that beds became available, and the waitlist to get into that house is very long.

The recovery housing we provide is critical for individuals in the process of recovering from addiction or substance abuse. Recovery housing provides them with a supportive, structured environment to focus on their recovery. Recovery housing provides individuals with resources and support to help them overcome their addiction, avoid triggers and temptations, and ultimately the tools they need to build the foundation for stable, long-term recovery. Please, don't make us have to halt this progress right as our communities are beginning to feel the difference we're making with these funds. I urge you to find a different funding source for HB 3431 and leave Measure 110 funds alone.

Sincerely,

Shawn Bower
Executive Director, Iron Tribe Network