



March 23, 2023

Dear Chair Bynum, Vice Chairs Morgan and Nguyen, members of the House Committee On Economic Development and Small Business,

My name is Basilio Sandoval and I am the substance use disorders program manager at Centro Latino Americano in Lane County. I am submitting testimony on behalf of our organization regarding HB 3431 as neutral because, while we support ongoing funding of the Economic Equity Investment Program, we know that cutting Measure 110 funding for this purpose would negatively impact our work and the families we serve.

As one of the only non-profit organizations serving Latinx and immigrant families in Lane County, Measure 110 has been a game changer for us. We provide a wide variety of services, including low-barrier treatment to help community members who struggle with addiction. The money we are receiving through Measure 110 has made it possible for us to:

- Expand our recovery and mentoring programs;
- Provide free outpatient treatment and mental health services to more people;
- Establish community partnerships through a collaboration with HIV Alliance. Through this collaboration we can expand the scope of services from testing and education, into harm reduction, moving them further down the path to recovery;
- Help clients meet their basic needs so they can focus on their recovery;
- Expand access to housing; and
- Even pay for gasoline for the people we serve, which removes a major barrier that all too often prevents people from accessing critical support services, making it to court or treatment appointments on time, etc.

Measure 110 dollars are also allowing us to provide wraparound services to every client who walks through our doors, helping them access peer support specialists, mental health therapists, substance disorder counselors and connecting our clients to additional resources in the community.

Thanks to this Measure 110 funding, and the power of collaboration that Lane County is known for, we will expand services for a population that is often overlooked, but equally deserving of meaningful care and treatment services.

HB 3431 as currently written would divert half of the proceeds away from funding for Measure 110 services. This would be a devastating blow to all of the culturally-specific, community-based providers funded by Measure 110. The Measure 110 money is especially important for our organization and the families we serve because we are the only Spanish language provider of these services in Lane County. Every single staff person in our substance use disorders team is fully bilingual, and because of this, we can provide more equitable services in our community.

Losing support from Measure 110 would impact my programs greatly. HB 3431 would cut 50% of the funding currently available to grantees through Measure 110. With this proposed 50% cut, on top of what we're facing with reduced cannabis tax revenue, we won't be able to meet even the basic needs of our communities, much less the tremendous need for our services. The need is great, and Measure 110 is finally allowing us to make inroads. We can't go back now. Please, find an alternate funding source for HB 3431.

Sincerely,

Basilio Sandoval on behalf of Centro Latino Americano