



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 Janie Gulluckson and I am the Executive Director of the Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon. We are an inclusive peer-run organization based in Portland and serving clients in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas Counties. We are committed to promoting self-directed recovery and wellness for all. We honor lived experiences. We support people wherever they are on their journey, free from judgment or agenda. We support these aims through education, advocacy, recovery peer services, training, technical assistance, community collaboration, and through developing the peer workforce and leadership. We believe that all individuals who experience mental health and/or addiction challenges can recover and that recovery, its journey and process, is unique to the individual.

I am writing on behalf of MHA/O to submit neutral testimony regarding HB 3431. HB 3431, as it is currently written, would divert half of the proceeds away from funding for Measure 110 services, a devastating blow to all of the culturally-specific, community-based providers like MHA/O that are funded by Measure 110.

Utilizing Measure 110 funding as the revenue source for HB 3431 would result in an estimated loss of at least \$97.5 million per biennium from current, essential mental health and addiction treatment and prevention services, including housing. Cannabis tax revenue is down, and addiction recovery service providers like my organization are already looking at having to cut services by 25%. An additional 50% cut would not be sustainable for our organization to continue to provide life saving services to our communities.

Losing support from Measure 110 would impact my programs greatly. With the proposed 50% cut from HB 3431, 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.

Measure 110 has enabled us to vastly expand services. We now have a 24/7 phone line available for any MHA/O client to connect with a trained peer, day or night. We now offer new drop-in, in-person support support for our clients. We've expanded our infrastructure so that we can serve more clients. Measure 110 is funding our participation in a virtual, evidence-based,

post-treatment recovery program that allows our clients to connect with others in recovery across the world through moderated peer discussion groups, virtual support groups, reminders, digital cognitive behavioral therapy, and care team connections. We are also collaborating with NW Instituto Latino to launch our first culturally-specific services program for members of the Latino community.

Please, find an alternate funding source for HB 3431. Measure 110 is just starting to make a difference. We can't halt this progress now just as our communities are beginning to feel the benefits of the program.

Sincerely,

Janie Gullickson
Executive Director
Mental Health & Addiction Association of Oregon