



March 28, 2023

House Committee on Behavioral Health and Health Care
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Testimony in Support House Bill 2513

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice-Chair Goodwin, Vice-Chair Nelson, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Oregon. The ACLU of Oregon is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing civil liberties and civil rights, with more than 27,000 members statewide.

The ACLU of Oregon supports House Bill 2513 which will help Measure 110-funded providers continue efforts to support recovery, save lives, and redress the deeply entrenched harm of the “war on drugs” on BIPOC communities.

In 2020, Oregonians passed Measure 110 by an overwhelming 17-point margin. With this landslide vote, Oregonians championed an evidence-based and treatment-focused response to our state’s addiction crisis. The people of Oregon also issued their legislature a mandate to treat addiction as a health condition rather than a crime.

Although Measure 110’s rollout was not without challenges, more than 60,000 people have already benefited from Measure 110 services, new programs have been established, and sober housing options have opened across the state. Measure 110 has particularly helped serve the communities most targeted and harmed by the war on drugs by prioritizing bilingual and culturally specific services. The influx of funding not only helps Oregonians struggling with addiction but has helped develop communities’ behavioral health workforce, creating jobs for people to help others in their own communities.

House Bill 2513 aims to finetune voters’ vision, fix issues with the initial implementation and improve the effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in OHA’s administration of this essential program. This bill reflects key lessons from Measure 110’s rollout and the hard work of a coalition including OHA experts, BHRN providers, and individuals with lived experience of addiction and recovery. House Bill 2513 is a crucial step for setting Measure 110 up for long-term success.

Oregon's addiction health crisis grew over decades. Only when the community organized and championed a ballot initiative did we see any real effort to address our addiction crisis with real solutions and needed resources. **The ACLU of Oregon urges you to look to the people's leadership and to pass House Bill 2513 out of committee.**

Respectfully,

Emily Hawley (She/Her/Hers)
Senior Policy Associate, ACLU of Oregon