

Dear Senator Patterson, and the members of the Senate Health Care committee,

My name is Tony Vezina, and I am the Executive Director of 4D Recovery an organization providing peer support to youth and young adults. I am also the Chair of the Alcohol and Drug Policy Commission, but my testimony doesn't represent the commission.

First, I would like to publicly thank Representative Nosse for his leadership in advancing access to Behavioral Health Services over the last several years and for taking point on Ballot Measure 110.

I support HB 2513 for the following reasons:

1. It demonstrates a commitment to continuing funding to services in place that support people in achieving long-term recovery from addiction. 4D Recovery has enrolled 355 young people into peer recovery services. 66 of them reconnected with their children, 40 of them improved their education, and 101 improved their employment. 95% of the 355 reported abstinent milestones, accumulating to 97 years combined. We have also helped 73 people secure housing. Across the state, it is reported that over 60,000 individuals have been impacted by Measure 110.
2. The bill makes some improvements to effectively administer the grants, but I still think there is work to be done to align this measure with other state funding efforts to ensure Oregon is comprehensively coordinating its resources effectively to address substance use and mental health disorders. I do not recommend disrupting the current M110 process, given the volume of people being served and the crisis at hand.

Lastly, while this bill improves the effectiveness of Measure 110, it is only one step towards solving Oregon addiction and homelessness issue. Prior to the passage of Measure 110, the state was 49% under capacity with substance use services, and while measure 110 funded mostly recovery services, it did not completely fill the gap and I urge this committee to continue expanding service infrastructure in the future.