



February 7, 2024

Members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response;

I am writing on behalf of the Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce to provide written testimony in **strong support of reforms to Measure 110 proposed in House Bill 4036 and SB 1555**. Our chamber represents a diverse array of over 1200 businesses in the Eugene and surrounding area, and we have a vested interest in the well-being and safety of our community.

The Eugene Chamber has been actively engaged in working to tackle the complex challenges of homelessness, public safety and drug use in our community, as evidenced by our State of Homelessness Report released in 2021 and our ongoing Homeless Initiative. Our community is experiencing open drug use, drug-related crimes, and overwhelming need, which is straining both our justice system and behavioral health services. This is not good for the community or for those suffering on the streets.

Over the course of several months, we hosted seven presentations with our Government Affairs Committee, who unanimously supported the Chamber's position to support this bill. We had robust engagement from various perspectives, including law enforcement, Senator Floyd Prozanski, behavioral health experts, service providers, and those receiving Measure 110 funds to offer counseling and addiction support services. These discussions underscored the urgency and complexity of the challenges we face.

We commend the attention given to this issue by the Legislature and this committee, especially considering the national spotlight Oregon has received for the dire consequences stemming from a failed policy rollout. It is evident that urgent action is needed to address the severe addiction crisis, the alarming rise in fentanyl overdose-related deaths, and the detrimental effects these issues are having on community safety and quality of life across our state.

We stand in solidarity with the 11-point policy recommendations proposed by statewide law enforcement associations, business groups, cities, counties, including Eugene and Lane County, and numerous others. These proposals offer a comprehensive approach to tackling the multifaceted challenges presented by addiction and substance abuse disorders.

As partners in public safety, we firmly believe that Measure 110 failed to recognize that drug addiction is both a public health and public safety crisis, necessitating solutions that address both aspects. Success will require innovative tools, substantial allocation of resources, and



adaptable approaches that acknowledge the diverse needs and challenges of each Oregon community.

Our support for these reforms includes prioritizing the recriminalization of illicit and harmful drugs to provide law enforcement with the tools they are requesting. We also advocate for sustained funding for the Behavioral Health Resource Network Providers who are delivering services with proven and effective strategies. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of implementing metrics to ensure funds are distributed effectively and improving coordination between Behavioral Health Resource Network Providers and County Health and Behavioral Service Providers.

In conclusion, we urge your support for the reforms outlined in HB 4035 and SB 2555 and urge inclusion in the proposed legislation. By working together and implementing these comprehensive solutions, we can make significant strides toward addressing the addiction crisis and enhancing community safety and well-being in Oregon.

Thank you for considering our testimony and for your commitment to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brittany Q" followed by a stylized flourish.

Brittany Quick-Warner

President & CEO, Eugene Area Chamber of Commerce

brittanyw@eugenechamber.com