

Chairs Lieber and Kropf, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Julia Mines. I'm the Executive Director of the Miracles Club. I am submitting testimony on behalf of Miracles and the Oregon Black Brown Indigenous Advocacy Coalition (OBBIAC) in opposition to HB 4002. OBBIAC is a coalition of Black, Brown, and Indigenous providers of substance use disorder/mental health services. Our purpose is to build the power of people and communities most negatively impacted by the failed policies of the "War on Drugs".

We oppose HB 4002 because it will **inflict more government harm and violence on Black and brown communities. Black and brown Oregonians will be arrested at higher rates and be most likely to face incarceration and harsher sentencing.**

Today, even after Measure 110, [Black Oregonians are issued M110 citations at double the rate of their population](#) and [Portland police have the 5th highest arrest rate disparities in the country](#). [People of color are disproportionately excluded from diversion](#) and are [more likely to be placed in diversion programs that disproportionately fail people of color](#). In other words, more Black, brown, and Indigenous people will be convicted, get criminal records, and be incarcerated — which will lead to higher levels of drug addiction, overdose deaths, poverty, and homelessness.

It's a shame that Measure 110's successes have not been as widely reported as its flaws, because there is a lot of hope and recovery being generated as a result of this law. Measure 110 grant funding is helping us maintain and grow our local presence, programs, housing and other service offerings. Thanks to new funding from Measure 110, in 2023, Miracles was able to:

- Conduct 1,804 new client intakes; combination of 811 new and 993 GPRA intakes
- Provide rental and utility assistance is 512 clients in early recovery;
- Provide 5,792 peer to peer recovery counseling sessions;
- Provide 2,781 forms of emergency financial assistance;
- 1,015 of our clients reported that they were able to reconnect with their children after utilizing our services;
- 932 individuals in our program gained employment;
- 894 people continued their education;
- 1,456 clients reported improving their housing while in our services.

With support from Measure 110 funding we've been able to increase street outreach and transitional housing beds — including the first and ONLY transitional house for African American women in recovery. We have also been able to expand our outreach into Washington County

HB 4002 punishes individuals and providers for the state's failure to adequately fund treatment services. When half of the treatment services needed for our state is available and the Oregon Health Authority research showing that Oregon has an acute shortage of treatment for substance use disorders and withdrawal management, with a projected need of almost 2,200 new beds, it's clear that the real problem is lack of services.

HB 4002 would return Oregon to the failed and harmful policies of the war on drugs. Government tried to arrest our way out of this crisis for over 50 years, but it resulted in higher addiction rates, lethal and less expensive drugs on our streets, more overdose deaths, mass incarceration and disproportionate harm to Black, Brown and low-income communities. Re-criminalizing addiction will make it more difficult and expensive to address drug addiction and homelessness. It will increase the risk of overdose, disrupt current treatment investments and once again saddle people with criminal records that can create lifelong barriers to housing, employment, education, and other services.

As new addiction services are finally starting to open up and crime rates post-pandemic are dropping, the legislature should focus on solutions that let mental health and drug treatment professionals help people who need and want treatment, instead of implementing controversial policies that disproportionately harm Black and brown communities and our houseless neighbors. I urge you to vote no on HB 4002.