

February 26, 2025

Re: SB 610-1

Co-Chair Kropf, Co-Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee, for the record my name is Sanjay Raizada, and I am the Founder and CEO of Solutions Group NW. I am here today to testify on behalf of my organization in support of SB 610 and the -1 amendment.

We founded Solutions Group NW in 2016 to bring culturally specific, low-barrier substance use disorder treatment and problem gambling services consciously, systemically, and sustainably to underserved populations. For nine years we have been providing these services to the Washington County community. Our treatment success rate has been consistently over 80%. Today we believe we are the largest provider of outpatient services to the Hispanic community not only in the tri-county area but in the state of Oregon.

We are contracted to provide services to Washington County Drug Court, Beaverton BSOBR Drug Court, Washington County Veteran's Treatment Court and Washington County Defection Program.

In the early years most of the work that we did was fee for service. Because of that we did not successfully apply for any M110 funding in the first go around. Despite not being awarded any funds we still became an active part of the BHRN as a "guest".

So, when the M110 funds were opened again last fall, we applied this time and we applied for several wraparound categories including assessments, peer support, OHP navigation which fit within M110's intent, so we are better able to service Latino community.

This past week the OAC met to review all the applications from Washington County. We watched the selection process which we found to be extremely flawed. The process was only driven by the budget, because the allocation to Washington County was only \$29 million and the requests were 3x of that. The OAC started eliminating applicants, reducing budgets to get it down to \$29 million - at no point was there any discussion about what the county needs, what the population profile is or the fact that Latinos make up anywhere from 17 to 20% of the population of Washington County.

Even though Solutions Group was recommended by all reviewers based on the rankings, we were eliminated without any discussion on need or merit since we were not an incumbent. Unfortunately, no committee member appeared committed to building a capability for the Hispanic population in the BHRN.

So, the net result of all this is that we will have a BHRN again much like the previous BHRN that will have no provider who has any significant ability to deliver treatment services to the Latino population in Washington County. Solutions Group will, as before, participate in the

BHRN as a “guest” or unfunded agency so that we can ensure that the Hispanic population gets serviced. **It should not be this way.**

There are two critical issues that we believe this committee should deal with:

First, why did Washington County only receive \$29 million and not a larger amount based on its population size?

Second, an equally important aspect of this process is that this committee was so driven by limited budget that they completely ignored the needs of the county, and the cultural composition of the population did not drive the decision making at all. This defies the intent of Measure 110 and the stated Health Equity goals of the Oregon Health Authority.

I believe that Washington County’s proposed solution in SB 610 and the -1 amendment addresses both issues which is why I urge your support. Thank you for your time.

Note: I was registered to provide testimony at the hearing and drove to Salem for it. However, for unknown reasons, the committee excluded my testimony in person although I was in the hearing room. See attached registration.

From: OLIS Registration Confirmation: DO-NOT-REPLY RegistrationConfirmation@oregonlegislature.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oregon State Legislature Testimony Registration: SB 610 2/26/2025 at 5:00 PM
Date: February 24, 2025 at 9:34 PM
To: sanjay.raizada@solutionsgroupnw.com
Cc: Testimony.Registration@oregonlegislature.gov



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You are registered to testify on Measure: SB 610 to the Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response on 2/26/2025 at 5:00 PM. Please refer to OLIS for the meeting location.

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