



**Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Dear Co-Chair Kropf, Co-Chair Prozanski and Members of the Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response,

My name is Naomi Hunsaker, and I am the Supervisor of the Washington County Behavioral Health Addictions Program.

**I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 610 and the -1 amendment.**

In 2021, the Behavioral Health Resource Networks (also known as the BHRNs) were created because Oregon knew that substance misuse and overdoses were a growing and serious problem.

We needed to expand access to treatment with an effective, humane, cost-effective, and a health-based approach. M110 established BHRNs to provide comprehensive, community-based services and supports to people with substance use disorders. They were designed to ensure balanced regional capacity so that anyone who needed services can access them.

In Washington County, the BHRN funding made it possible for 19 organizations to provide additional services to our community across the system of care. This increased services overall by 275% (from the end of Q1 to the end of Q7). Some of these services increased as dramatically as over 1000%. These are added services that our community would not have had access to without this funding.

Unfortunately, the current OAC funding formula will cause significant negative impacts to the BHRNs and community members we serve. I ask that you support the Senate Bill 610 and the -1 amendment to protect the sustainability and continuity of services that were created with the initial BHRN allocation.

Without this amendment, multiple providers will be forced to discontinue these desperately needed screenings, substance use disorder treatment, harm reduction services, peer support, and employment and housing assistance. In this next grant cycle, without an updated solution, our funding will be cut by nearly 28%. Decreases in these available services can lead to delayed care, worsening health conditions, and increased overdose. This would then burden the healthcare and behavioral health system in neighboring regions, as people will eventually need to travel to seek services in other counties.

**Department of Health and Human Services**

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Unbalanced distribution of funds also increases healthcare costs due to delayed treatment leading to more acute problems. I would also like to add that decreased access of services disproportionately impacts historically excluded communities, and this will especially affect our county where a number of culturally responsive services were greatly increased with BHRN funding to meet the needs of our diverse residents.

Finally, the current funding formula will not just impact our BHRN, but will also impact deflection programs who rely on their BHRN services to provide treatment and supports to participants. BHRN services in Washington County have made it so that people can begin their recovery, instead of facing a courtroom and criminal record. This reduced funding will not allow us to connect people to services when they most need it; bringing decreased engagement and recovery success, and increased recidivism.

Washington County prides itself on bringing hope that recovery is possible, but without these resources it will not be able to deliver this promise to the people we serve and so deeply care about.

I urge the Committee's support of SB 610 and the -1 amendment. Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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