

Written Testimony in Opposition to HB 4139 (Section 15)

Submitted by: Meli Rose, Deputy Director, Iron Tribe Network

Chair Nguyen and Members of the Committee,

My name is Meli Rose, and I am the Deputy Director of Iron Tribe Network. I am submitting this written testimony to express strong concern regarding HB 4139, specifically Section 15, and the harm it would cause to Behavioral Health Resource Networks (BHRNs) and the essential services they fund.

Iron Tribe Network provides family recovery housing and peer support services in eight counties across Oregon and is currently part of four BHRNs. Our work supports individuals and families impacted by substance use disorders through stable housing, peer-delivered support, and long-term recovery pathways.

Like many providers, we are already operating under severe and compounding funding reductions. Just this week, BHRNs experienced a 14% cut in year two of a four-year grant cycle. This follows earlier reductions of 20–40% that providers absorbed prior to the start of this current grant cycle. These cumulative cuts are no longer theoretical or manageable—they are already forcing real service reductions.

As a direct result of these budget cuts, Iron Tribe Network has had to pull back peer support services in three of the four BHRNs we participate in to maintain the critical recovery housing we provide. This was not a strategic choice—it was a necessary one. Housing stability is foundational to recovery, and we were forced to prioritize it because there is no remaining flexibility in our budget.

At this point, organizations like ours cannot absorb additional reductions without causing further harm. Any additional diversion of cannabis tax revenue away from behavioral health will result in fewer services, reduced peer engagement, and diminished support for people who are already navigating significant barriers to care.

Measure 110 established a voter-approved, dedicated funding stream to rebuild Oregon's behavioral health and addiction recovery system after decades of underinvestment. Cannabis tax revenue is the backbone of that system. Section 15 of HB 4139 would divert funds already committed to treatment, recovery, housing, and peer support, undermining both voter intent and the stability providers need to responsibly operate and plan.

It is deeply concerning that, given the current funding landscape, behavioral health programs are again being asked to give up a portion of an already limited and shrinking resource. Oregon should be focused on diversifying and strengthening funding for BHRN programs, not fragmenting the only dedicated funding stream that currently exists.

Addressing illegal marijuana enforcement is an important policy goal, but it should not come at the expense of life-saving behavioral health and recovery services. Redirecting cannabis tax revenue away from BHRNs risks reversing progress and further destabilizing a system that is already stretched to its limit.

I respectfully urge the committee to reject Section 15 of HB 4139 and to uphold the funding structure established by Measure 110. Oregon's behavioral health system cannot sustain further reductions without real and immediate harm to the communities it serves.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Meli Rose

Deputy Director

Iron Tribe Network