

Submitter: Hannah Studer

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4139

To: Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business

From: Dr. Hannah Studer, Executive Director, Bridges to Change

Date: February 4, 2026

Re: Opposition to HB 4139, Section 15

Dear Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Small Business,

Bridges to Change is a nonprofit organization providing substance use and mental health treatment, transitional and permanent housing, and mentoring services for individuals in Clackamas, Multnomah, Wasco, and Washington counties.

We write in opposition to Section 15 of HB 4139, which would divert approximately \$18 million per biennium from cannabis tax revenues currently dedicated to behavioral health and addiction recovery services, redirecting those funds to the Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program. This change would likely result in an estimated 10 percent reduction in available funding for Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) services and grants.

This is the wrong direction to take and threatens the stability of Measure 110, funded services just as they are becoming fully operational across Oregon. Providers like Bridges to Change have built programs, hired staff, and expanded capacity based on the promise of a stable, voter-approved funding stream. Cutting those funds mid-implementation is unconscionable for people in crisis who are desperately seeking services, for providers working to meet that need, and for communities relying on these systems to save lives.

As Bridges to Change and behavioral health nonprofits across the state experience CCO rate reductions, increased cost of living, increased wait times for care, and higher acuity needs of our community members, diverting funds from providers creates dangerous conditions for Oregonians. We face funding cuts (whether real or threats) weekly in our work, and are tasked with treating Oregon's most vulnerable communities with fewer resources every day.

Governor Kotek and lawmakers across party lines have repeatedly committed to treating Oregon's addiction and houselessness crises with urgency. Reducing behavioral health funding now, while demand continues to grow, does not reflect that commitment. Oregon's behavioral health system has been underfunded for decades,

and Measure 110 was designed to begin reversing that harm, not perpetuate it.

With Measure 110 funding, Bridges to Change has been able to expand housing capacity, increase access to treatment, and hire additional staff to meet community needs. These services are not optional, they are essential. A reduction of this magnitude would force difficult decisions that directly impact our ability to serve people seeking treatment, stability, and recovery.

Bridges to Change urges the Legislature to preserve the integrity of Measure 110 funding and reject Section 15 of HB 4139. Diverting cannabis tax revenue away from behavioral health services undermines voter intent, destabilizes effective programs, and puts lives at risk.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to building a fully funded behavioral health system in Oregon.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Hannah Studer  
Executive Director  
Bridges to Change