



Submitted to the House Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade

February 4, 2025

Testimony in Opposition to HB 4139

Chair Nguyen, Vice Chairs Isadore and Skarlatos, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development, Small Business, and Trade,

The Oregon Black, Brown, and Indigenous Advocacy Organization (OBBIAC) submits testimony in opposition to Section 15 of HB 4139.

OBBIAC is a coalition of organizations serving Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities across Oregon. Our members include culturally specific behavioral health providers, recovery and peer support programs, and reentry services. We work directly with communities most impacted by the war on drugs and provide essential services such as culturally responsive treatment, harm reduction, recovery housing, and community-based support focused on healing and stability.

Section 15 of HB 4139 would reduce funding from Oregon's cannabis tax revenue dedicated to behavioral health and addiction recovery services by \$18 million per biennium and redirect those funds to the Illegal Marijuana Enforcement Grant Program. This change would likely result in roughly a 10% reduction in funding for Behavioral Health Resource Network (BHRN) services across the state.

Measure 110 created a voter-approved, dedicated funding stream to build Oregon's behavioral health and addiction recovery system after decades of underinvestment. Cannabis tax revenue is the backbone of that system. Redirecting these funds undermines the purpose of Measure 110 and weakens the state's ability to provide treatment, outreach, housing support, and recovery services. It also creates instability for providers who rely on consistent funding to hire staff, maintain programs, and serve people in crisis.

A funding reduction of this scale would have real and immediate impacts. It would likely mean fewer overdose prevention and harm reduction services, reduced peer support and outreach for people experiencing homelessness, fewer low-barrier treatment and recovery options, and fewer resources to help people stabilize housing, maintain employment, and reunify with their families. These are life-saving services that communities across Oregon rely on every day.



Oregon Black Brown Indigenous
Advocacy Coalition

HB 4139 creates the wrong tradeoff. Oregon can address illegal marijuana enforcement without weakening the behavioral health system voters asked the state to build. Diverting cannabis tax revenue away from BHRNs risks repeating the policy failures that left Oregon near the bottom nationally in access to behavioral health care. It also creates new uncertainty for providers who are already facing workforce shortages and rising demand for services.

Voter intent on this issue is clear. Oregonians strongly support funding addiction treatment, peer support, supportive employment, housing, and public health responses to substance use. Section 15 of HB 4139 moves Oregon away from those priorities and undermines commitments made to communities, providers, and voters.

For these reasons, OBBIAC urges the committee to reject Section 15 of HB 4139 and protect funding for behavioral health and recovery services. Oregon should maintain the investments voters approved and continue building a behavioral health system that saves lives and strengthens communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Oregon Black, Brown, and Indigenous Advocacy Coalition



**Fresh Out
Community Based
Reentry Program**



The Miracles Club
Bringing A Community Together One Person at A Time




Out Of The Box Health Equity Coalition

