

**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,

My name is Julia Mines, and I'm the Executive Director of The Miracles Club. I am submitting testimony in opposition to Section 15 of HB 4139.

Miracles Club is a Black, peer-led, recovery center. We provide peer support, recovery services, and community connection for people who are working to rebuild their lives. Many of the people we serve have experienced homelessness, incarceration, and long-term addiction, and they rely on low-barrier, community-based services to survive and recover.

Section 15 of HB 4139 would take \$18 million per biennium from cannabis tax revenue that voters dedicated to behavioral health and addiction recovery and redirect it to illegal marijuana enforcement. That would likely mean about a 10 percent cut to Behavioral Health Resource Network funding statewide.

On the ground, that means fewer services for people in crisis. It means fewer overdose prevention and harm reduction services, fewer peer supports and outreach workers, and fewer resources that help people stabilize housing, find work, and stay connected to their families.

Measure 110 created a dedicated funding stream because Oregon's behavioral health system had been underfunded for decades. Cannabis tax revenue is now the backbone of that system. Providers like The Miracles Club rely on stable funding to keep our doors open and to be there when people are ready for help. Cuts of this size create instability for providers and put lives at risk.

Communities like the ones The Miracles Club serves have been disproportionately harmed by the failed war on drugs policies. Redirecting funding away from treatment and recovery—away from the very solutions that help people heal, enter recovery, and rebuild their lives—is a step backward.

Oregon can address illegal marijuana enforcement without weakening the behavioral health system voters asked the state to build. Voters were clear that they want investment in treatment, peer support, housing, and public health solutions to substance use.

I urge you to reject Section 15 of HB 4139 and protect funding for behavioral health and recovery services.

Thank you for your time.

Julia Mines
Executive Director
The Miracles Club