



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

February 4, 2025

Testimony in Opposition to HB 4139

By: Shannon Wight, Deputy Director at Partnership for Safety and Justice

Chair Nguyen, Vice-Chairs Isadore and Skarlatos, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 4139. For the record, my name is Shannon Wight and I am the Deputy Director at Partnership for Safety and Justice (PSJ). PSJ advocates for public safety policies that ensure accountability, equity, and healing for people convicted of crime, crime survivors, and the families and communities of both. For over 25 years, our work has promoted community and public safety with policies that keep families together, reduce racial disparities, and invest across Oregon.

PSJ does not have an opinion on the vast majority of this bill. We do not consider regulation of the cannabis industry to be primarily within the purview of our organization, and we recognize the challenges posed by certain growing options throughout parts of our state. While PSJ has not significantly engaged on these types of issues, we have been active in conversations regarding uses of cannabis tax revenue to support behavioral health treatment providers.

Section 15 of the draft bill on OLIS would alter the cannabis tax distribution formula, redirecting \$3 million quarterly into the Illegal Marijuana Market Enforcement Grant housed within the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC). This is a significant increase over the current quarterly appropriation, and would result in serious declines in resources available to behavioral health and substance use disorder (SUD) providers who rely on this funding to provide their services.

As our state continues to struggle with limited capacity for behavioral health and SUD treatment, the Legislature should not redirect funds designed to solve this exact problem. These providers need our continued financial support if we expect to address some of Oregon's critical problems around housing, homelessness, and behavioral health.

While we appreciate the seriousness of conversations around cannabis grows, we would encourage the Legislature to look for solutions that do not result in a decline of financial support to these programs.

PSJ urges the Legislature to oppose HB 4139. Thank you for your consideration.