



Ballot Measure 110 opposition statement

OCBH is committed to a trauma informed, equity driven, public health approach to the addiction crisis and reforms which support increasing bridges to treatment and recovery services. Our members have been working over the last decade to shift our system with this vision – and we applaud efforts to remove the criminal stigma attached to addiction, a chronic health condition which needs to be treated as such.

Thus, we are saddened to find that unfortunately, *Ballot Measure 110 does not address fundamental problems in our treatment and recovery system.* The measure provides no new funding, destroys pathways to treatment and recovery, and fails to address racial injustice in our systems by decriminalizing a narrow set of charges without resource for larger system innovation. It fails to *even consider* our state’s serious and persistent child and youth substance use rates and access to care.

For these reasons, the Oregon Council for Behavioral Health, Oregon’s voice for addiction treatment and recovery, does not support BM 110. *These issues deserve better solutions which deliver sustainable and equitable population health.* We do not believe BM 110 will succeed in achieving the systemic change Oregonians deserve.

Ballot Measure 110, known as the “Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act,” aims to address Oregon’s substance use disorder crisis and its intersection with the criminal justice system. The measure seeks to curtail the vast state resources spent by our law enforcement professionals on interventions more appropriately tackled by Oregon’s behavioral healthcare system.

There is no question Oregon’s jails and prisons are overflowing with individuals suffering from addiction who are better served by therapeutic interventions. Around 67% of individuals in custody suffer from a substance use disorder. The figures cited by the supporters of the measure regarding the pervasiveness of addiction and Oregon’s insufficient solutions are alarming. We whole-heartedly echo the supporter’s concerns that, “People suffering from addiction are more effectively treated with health care services than with criminal punishments.” It is unconscionable that our state relies on revenues from addictive behaviors (tobacco, lottery, alcohol, marijuana) and in turn underfunds, or simply does not provide, treatment to those incarcerated who experience addiction. It is equally unconscionable that the charges the Ballot Measure seeks to impact including possession of heroin, methamphetamine, and opioids are disproportionately levied on people of color, reflecting the systemic racism present in our criminal justice system and beyond.

These longstanding issues deserve better.

Measure 110 falls short

BM 110 *does not add one penny of revenue to the state’s budget* – The ballot measure *fails* to provide additional resources for the development of alternative equity based and trauma informed interventions to improve access to treatment and recovery services. *Instead it reappropriates Marijuana dollars, which are currently allocated to counties, safety net behavioral health services, and schools.*

OCBH Statement of Opposition to Ballot Measure 110

BM 110 is redundant, if passed, it would call for the creation of a separate and additional law enforcement ticket driven system for substance use disorder screening and assessment. After a decade of work, the Oregon Behavioral Health system *as a health care service* is now providing quick and often same-day substance use disorder screening and assessment. The measure **does not** address our states access issues. A screening and assessment alone does not achieve services, individuals are placed on wait lists for more intensive services that can be weeks, if not months, long. This diminishing access, which includes services such as sobering centers, detox, residential and outpatient care for parents, youth and adults, *is ignored by BM 110*. The measure also puts existing pathways to treatment and recovery, like diversion, including for youth, at risk. Our addiction system needs *funding* to support universal access to quality addiction treatment and long-term support for recovery *on demand*. In failing to add a single penny of revenue to these needed supports, *BM 110 will undermine progress in our recovery system and fails to provide a solution for Oregon's most vulnerable*.

OCBH supports the supporters' goal of correcting inherent injustice and decriminalizing drug charges, but this measure falls short of addressing the wide-ranging impacts on access to treatment and recovery. The significant cross-sector policy changes necessary to achieve these goals would be better considered by the Legislature. Though we oppose Ballot Measure 110, we look forward to working with the initiative sponsors and others during the upcoming legislative session to continue the fight for equity for those suffering from addiction.