



December 20, 2023
Governor Tina Kotek
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Dear Governor Kotek:

At a recent Board of Commissioners meeting, Deschutes County District Attorney Stephen Gunnels presented on recommendations for reform Measure 110 called, “A Comprehensive Approach to Addressing Oregon’s Addiction and Community Livability Crisis.” The policy recommendations are the work of the League of Oregon Cities, Oregon District Attorneys Association, Oregon Association Chiefs of Police, and Oregon State Sheriffs’ Association.

The Board of County Commissioners commends this comprehensive approach and generally supports the package of eleven policy proposals with a few recommended modifications. As discussion moves forward on these proposals, the Board offers the following comments and input:

Policy Proposal #4: Fund county probation departments to supervise misdemeanor theft and property crime cases where defendants are dealing with an addiction/substance abuse disorder:

We are concerned that the State of Oregon has not been adequately funding county community corrections agencies. Community correction agencies play a critical role in reducing recidivism and providing positive outcomes for offenders. We strongly encourage proper funding for this essential public safety service.

Policy Proposal #7: Prioritize adequate and sustainable funding for Oregon’s Specialty Courts:

While we support Specialty Courts, the Deschutes County Local Public Safety Coordinating Committee has concluded that a formal Drug Treatment specialty court in our community is not currently sustainable. Barriers to implementing drug court in rural communities include lack of the full continuum of treatment services, lack of adequate wraparound services, lack of substance-free housing as well as a substantial impact on the Court. We advocate broadening the

recommendation to include court-connected programs. At Deschutes County, we believe a court-connected program will still reduce recidivism, provide positive outcomes for offenders, and reduce the substantial impact on the Court.

Policy Proposal #8 – Establish authority to utilize welfare holds of up to 72 hours for intoxicated persons who pose a danger to self or others:

While we generally agree with the intent of this policy proposal, we have concerns that our current system does not have enough treatment resources. With such low treatment access, releasing someone with a substance use disorder after 72 hours will increase the overdose fatality risk. A fully funded treatment system would be a critical element to support a 72-hour hold policy.

In conclusion, we strongly encourage a comprehensive approach to Measure 110 reform that adequately funds the community justice system and the pathways out of additions: treatment, residential and supported housing, stabilization, and sobering and specialty courts.

Deschutes County Commissioners

Anthony DeBone, Chair

Patti Adair, Vice Chair

Phil Chang, Commissioner

c: Stephen Gunnels, Deschutes County District Attorney
Senators Lynn Findley, Tim Knopp, and Dennis Linthicum
Representatives Vikki Breese Iverson, Jason Kropf, E. Werner Reschke, and Emerson Levy