

February 27, 2019

Dear 80th Legislative Assembly and committee:

Remember the potato famine in Ireland? this sorry outcome could have been prevented if common sense and the intelligence of the people who knew the land had been honoured, respected and acted upon. But the tepid frenzy of the few took law.

The United States of America used to be cited for its democratic principles and the state of Oregon was proudly a home rule state. What have we become? When we cower before free money hidden in our pockets by corporations which are undermining the well being of our children and our families?

The nuns in catholic school taught us that the best way to bring down a civilization was to destroy the family. I'm sure many of you have seen, within your own families, the many ways that families are under attack today....a few are poverty, homelessness, gmo s, pornography, a dying planet, sex trafficking. And so much more.

You likely know that shortly before witch burning mothers were the predominant physician in most households. In fact, almost all of us have warm feelings about our mothers chicken soup...is this not a form of healing? Is it really possible, in your minds, that all that healing potential just disappeared because a few laboratories put a chemical cocktail together and called it good? Without even a proper study or decent transparency or accountability??

Can you actually, in good faith, condemn all of the children of Oregon to such a nebulous future? As legislators you bear the consequences of faulty decision making in your conscience.

In America, we rarely hear about the minority report anymore. When we were great we acknowledged it's importance for its possible long term validity. You will also be responsible for snuffing this very critical parse of Oregon's and Americas potential greatness.

I suggest you deeply investigate and consider the ramifications of a government that has the right to inject into its citizen whatever poison the next crazy man with a needle and a bank roll deems necessary. You do not have this right in an actual democracy, and according to the U.S. Constitution, we are citizens endowed with unalienable rights who are all created equal.

it behooves us all to see governance as Dennis Richardsons legacy of always aiming high, expecting excellence, moving fast, and doing what is right for the people; his personal motto of "Pro Tanto Quid Retribuamus," which means: Having been given much, what will you give in return?" Thank you.

suzia aufderheide, 40 year resident

ashland Oregon

fyi: <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2017/05/11/inside-the-opioid-epidemic>