

I am writing to let you know that I am opposed to HB 2797. I do not believe that this will help anybody in the community. I understand that all people's lives are valuable, and worth saving. This includes the person who is using drugs, as well as the person that sold them drugs.

I do not believe you can punish a person into changing their behavior. I also know that historically, people of color have been incarcerated at much higher rates than white people, including sentences for possessing or selling drugs. I believe that this new law will not help us solve the opioid crisis.

I am a minister in Albany Oregon. I believe that we are all God's children, and we deserve to have second and third and fourth chances at life. For a person who uses drugs, I believe that naloxone would be a lot more helpful and it can save their life. A person who is selling drugs is likely doing so to make a living. I do not believe most people that sell drugs have the intent to harm or kill the person they are selling them to.

This law would only be enforced if a person has already died. I believe that we need to think up stream, and first we need to save the lives of people who use drugs. Additionally, by punishing the person who sold the drugs, you are now ruining two people's lives.

Another way to prevent this is to provide safe consumption places for people to use drugs. These facilities are staffed with people trained in saving lives and they can also prevent blood borne infections like HIV and hepatitis.

What if nobody had to die from a drug overdose? Wouldn't that also be considered a success?? Why aren't we setting up some of our most vulnerable residents for success?

Please remember we are all God's children, and only god can judge us. There are other ways to help people that do not involve punishing them and destroying families.

Reverend Blue Valentine
Albany Oregon