

Statement to Senate Judiciary Committee

- **Harm reduction is a legitimate part of the response and care continuum.** We are expanding life-saving harm reduction interventions across the state and I am so grateful we can do that. Specifically it is the safety net between prevention and treatment; it is a bridge that is not built on coercion, force or threats. Harm reduction saved my life.
- **There is a clear need for harm reduction trainings** and I would like to see a certification program similar to the certification for peer support workers, in order to ensure organizations are clear on the guiding principles of harm reduction.
- **Paraphernalia laws are hindering harm reduction efforts;** we need to decriminalize supplies such as fentanyl test strips (FTS) and other tools so they can be funded and distributed through Measure 110. The American Medical Association endorses decriminalizing FTS and other harm reduction supplies (1).
- **The Harm Reduction Clearinghouse (through Save Lives Oregon) needs sustainable state funding to continue operating.** The clearinghouse is able to send harm reduction supplies to organizations inside and outside the BHRNs in order to reach even more people.
- **The drug supply is rapidly changing and fentanyl is not the only drug of concern.** Overdose deaths are often due to multiple drugs, not just opioids. Overdose deaths are increasing not because of measure 110, but in spite of measure 110. We need more interventions than just naloxone distribution and fentanyl test strips.
- **We need overdose prevention sites to reduce overdose deaths.** They are an evidence-based intervention. Nobody has ever died at an overdose prevention site. In 5 months, the New York overdose prevention sites have reversed more than 270 overdoses (2). The American Society of Addiction Medicine and the American Academy of Family Physicians endorse overdose prevention sites (3,4). We need your help to open overdose prevention sites. Overdoses are preventable deaths and every overdose is a policy failure.

(1) <https://www.ama-assn.org/about/leadership/2022-critical-year-address-worsening-drug-overdose-crisis>

(2) <https://drugpolicy.org/issues/supervised-consumption-services>

(3) <https://www.asam.org/advocacy/public-policy-statements/details/public-policy-statements/2021/08/09/overdose-prevention-sites>

(4) <https://www.aafp.org/pubs/afp/issues/2022/0500/p454.html>