

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation:

My name is Kim Cavatorta and I have lived in South Tillamook County (Oregon Senate District 5) for 28 years. I am a retired Arts Administrator and was the Executive Director of a cultural non-profit for 20 years. Before that, I was a technical writer for a computer software company in Portland.

While I do not have first-hand experience with family or friends incarcerated for or struggling with drug use or addiction, I do witness the effects in our rural community. There is little access to treatment and recovery services. People have to travel hours away from their homes, families and support systems to have access to services. People suffering from drug use and addiction are not helped by being incarcerated; they need social services to help them overcome their use issues and return to being productive members of society.

In November 2020, Oregon voters made history by passing Measure 110, the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act, by a 17-point margin. People are dying from drug overdoses every single day, while one in 10 Oregonians struggles with Substance Use Disorder. Also, people of color, specifically Black, Indigenous, and Latinx communities as well as low-income Oregonians, continue to be disproportionately harmed by Oregon's failed approach of treating addiction like a crime, rather than a health issue. They are underrepresented in the healthcare system, while being overrepresented in the criminal justice system. Every day we wait, the more we perpetuate a racist system.

PLEASE support full funding for the important (critical!) and life-saving services that voters asked for by passing Measure 110. Please fully support SB 755.

Sincerely,

Kim Cavatorta