

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,

Hello, my name is Rose Goodwin. I am a constituent of Jackson County, OR. I have worked with several local non-profits over the past food years supporting everything from houseless and low-income residents, local food systems, and immigrants. I will be a graduate of the Healthcare Administration program as SOU this Spring. I am an active community member and volunteer.

This measure is incredibly important to me. I have been an avid supporter and gathered many signatures among my friends and family for the initiative petition. I am the child of parents who have suffered from substance abuse almost their entire lives. My father was a user of heroin and crack and was also an alcoholic. He died of cirrhosis when I was 21 years old. My mother has struggled with heroin and opioid use for nearly 2 decades.

I have spent my life watching my parents struggle with their addiction with very little support and a heavy burden of secrecy and shame. The lack of services and support for all people who struggle with substance use impacts not only them but also their families. I have spent so much time worrying and weeping for my parents. Searching for services that were not hours away or incredibly expensive. Hope and recovery should not be reserved only for the well-off. My childhood was cut short when my 12-year-old brother and I had to move into our older brother's house so that my mom could go to a rehab center hours from our home. She has been to several rehab centers, but every time transportation or financial barriers cut her time there too short.

Fortunately, I have never had to watch either of my parents go to jail for substance use or possession. The pain of that experience, on top of the incredible emotional and financial burden of dealing with addiction, is hard to imagine. While decriminalizing possession will give some relief to those struggling, this plan only works with funding for treatment. People using substances do not belong in jail, but that doesn't mean that they do not need help. They need your help now. We all do.

The rates of addiction and mental health issues in Oregon are among the highest in the nation. Our entire state deals with the fallout of this. It impacts homelessness, mental health, racial inequality, and so much more. The pandemic has exacerbated these already pressing issues.

Please support fully funding this important bill. Oregonians have told you what they need, and we are begging you to deliver.

Sincerely,  
Rose Goodwin  
Senior, Healthcare Administration Program  
Southern Oregon University