

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

My name is Yuriko Lee. I live in Beaverton and am a constituent of Sen. Kate Leiber. I am a practicing nurse practitioner and a healthcare justice advocate. Among many issues, I feel that people with drug addiction disorder have been greatly neglected by the public system and medical community. I am writing to ask the Committee to fund this important measure sufficiently and implement correctly. Here are a few points I would like to share.

Drug addiction disorder is a medical condition. People with the disorder need medical treatment and continuous care just as people with other medical conditions such as diabetes and hypertension. They should be able to access healthcare and medical providers. Just as any chronic illness, there is no quick fix. Definitely, putting those in jail is not what they need; appropriate medical treatment is.

We know that so many people are in jail or prison associated with addiction disorder. Again, that's not where they should be, but they should be under medical treatment and assistance, so that they can resume their lives and become productive members of our society.

We need to create a better medical system where people with addiction disorder can be treated without difficulty. I am aware that some primary care providers are willing to treat in their settings, but without enough support, it is hard to do so. For example, I am registered with DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration) to treat addiction, but I have never had an opportunity to actually utilize the capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity for me to share my thoughts and I am very hopeful that things will change.

Thank you.
Respectfully,
Yuriko Lee