

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

My name is Deian Salazar. I am a youth activist living with disabilities in East Portland, dedicated to helping the underserved and left behind. Our approach of treating drug addiction as a criminal issue instead of a health issue has done more to hurt than to help people suffering from drug dependency.

The cost of criminalizing drug addiction has disproportionately fallen on the poor and communities of color, so addressing addiction is a social justice issue as well as a health issue. Communities in East Portland and beyond need the support SB 755 provides to relieve families chafing under the burden of incarceration, uplift people from poverty and homelessness, and experience the world without the shackles of drug addiction.

Investing in addiction treatment and recovery services will go a long way toward addressing the issue of drug addiction in Oregon. Therefore, I urge you to support SB 755 and do what is needed by those who deserve the opportunity to live free from the cage of drug dependency.

Passing SB 755 is a crucial step to reaching a more just and equitable society.

Sincerely,
Deian Salazar