

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

My name is Nick Zimmer, and I'm a healthcare worker living in Multnomah County.

I have known a number of close friends and family who have struggled with substance abuse. One of my cousins has struggled with alcoholism for his entire adult life, and in my years of experience observing his problems, imprisonment only made them worse. It isolated him from the people who loved him and cared for him, while surrounding him with hardened criminals. Even after release, the stigma of imprisonment made it very difficult for him to find stable work. In recent years he's made massive forward strides, but he needed to feel hope, stability, and support before he could begin to turn his life around.

In November 2020, Oregonians voted overwhelmingly to pass Measure 110, the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act. Measure 110's decriminalization components have already been implemented, but I urge you to listen to your constituents and fully fund the measure's expansion of support for addiction treatment and recovery services. This needs to happen more urgently now than ever, amidst the immense stress and financial insecurity generated by the pandemic.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Zimmer