

March 14, 2021

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

My name is Farrah Chaichi, and I'm a lifelong Washington county resident, aside from my time in college. I spend most of my free time outside of my paid work in a law firm volunteering with multiple organizations on political issues.

For years I've seen the way our society treats addicts, both on an individual and systemic level. Individually, there is a lot of judgment and little compassion for the struggle of others. The systemic level mirrored that judgment and met struggle with punishment. And, like most punishments, it disproportionately targeted our Black, Indigenous, People of Color neighbors. The passage of measure 110 by an overwhelming majority was a breath of fresh air to see that we, as a state, could treat others with kindness and compassion and address addiction like the health crisis that it is.

This response to addiction as a health crisis cannot wait. We cannot afford to further delay funding. Prior to passage of measure 110 there were not enough addiction resources and the problem has only gotten worse. Since COVID the Oregon Health Authority reported we've seen a 70% increase in overdose deaths. We need resources and funding as soon as possible to save lives.

Will you please support SB 755 and commit to fully funding the law Oregonians overwhelmingly supported?

Thank you,
Farrah Chaichi