

March 14, 2021

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Slavin, and I'm writing as a mom to a middle schooler, a 20+-year sober citizen, and a member of the leadership team of Clackamas County Chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) in support of Senate Bill 755. In November 2020, Oregon voters made history by passing Measure 110, the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act, which we as a SURJ chapter supported, as did Oregonians across the state who voted overwhelmingly in favor of M110, passing it by a 17-point margin.

SURJ organizes in partnership with Black and Brown-led groups to co-create community safety, social, racial, and economic justice, and ensure basic needs and human rights for all Oregonians. We seek policy and programming that allows everyone to have equitable access to and adequate support for housing, education, food, work, and mental and physical health care.

For too long, Black, Indigenous, and people of color have been disproportionately harmed by the approach of treating drug addiction as a criminal issue rather than a health issue in Oregon. The Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act can help change that.

Please invest in funding the life-saving treatment and recovery services outlined SB 755. At SURJ, we've seen too many families torn apart by the compounded traumas of racial inequities in our criminal justice system and subsequent inadequate mental and physical health care access. We need to invest in more accessible and culturally specific treatment that understands ongoing cultural trauma and separation, as well as increased support to help people access the services they need in their communities.

By fully implementing the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act, we have an opportunity to put our money where our mouth is in actually supporting Oregon's values of racial equity, justice, and healing. We can help our communities thrive, keep families whole especially in these pandemic times, and open up economic opportunities for the future. These services are urgently needed now. Can we count on you to support funding for these critical community services that voters approved in Measure 110?

Thank you.

Nancy Slavin
Clackamas Co. SURJ