

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

My 40-year-old son just began a three-year prison sentence for cocaine possession. He began using drugs as a teenager--meth made him thin and confident; other drugs medicated his psychological pain. At 30, he got clean, but developed life-threatening conditions, and was prescribed opioids. He relapsed, and spent 15 months in prison on a drug charge. He got out, he got clean, then relapsed to other drugs because his probation therapist TRUSTED him when he said he wasn't using (8 months without a drug test!) Off probation, he relapsed to meth, and has been using various drugs ever since.

Therapy DID help him, but it wasn't consistent, and often it wasn't high-quality. Some had an unwritten requirement that he be a Christian--as if religious faith could be forced!

He's in prison again because he's a drug addict whose condition has never been successfully treated. If he gets COVID-19, it will kill him. He has never harmed anyone but himself, and what he needs is treatment, not prison time.

By supporting Oregon's underfunded rehab and treatment programs, Measure 110 is a life-saver. And there are literally thousands of Moms like me who would give their lives to save the life of their child from drugs. Please, don't water it down during implementation! Save these lives. Help them to live, get jobs, pay taxes, and pay society back. Please pass SB 755. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Kate van Voorhees