

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

My name is Henry Beltrán Exerjian. I live in Fairview Village, in Multnomah County, Oregon. I am an activist, a businessman, a father, an immigrant, a Latino, an Armenian, and an American.

The medical and scientific communities have urged us to treat drug addiction as an illness instead of a crime. Doing so makes infinitely more sense, both for maintaining safe communities and for promoting a healthy society that values people. It also makes abundant economic sense. According to data from the Oregon Department of Corrections and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the average cost for a year of methadone treatment is about \$4,700 per person, while a year of imprisonment costs about \$46,720 per person (Oregon Department of Corrections). Why pay more for a course of action that is less effective and inflicts lasting psychological, social, and economic harm on prisoners and their families?

The voters have made their priorities resoundingly obvious by passing Measure 110 with a 17-point victory margin. It is time for this legislative body to stand up for their constituents by supporting and voting for SB 755- the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act. This will adequately fund and implement an equitable, common-sense system to help people caught up in the addiction trap and it helps maintain safety in our communities. It meets people where they are across our big, diverse state, by developing programs in other languages and supporting culturally-specific treatment organizations. It moves Measure 110 forward in the best possible way.

Let's be leaders again in Oregon. Support and vote for SB 755.

Kind regards.
Sincerely,

Henry Beltrán Exerjian