

Dear members of the committee,

My name is Jaydra Perfetti. I grew up in Portland and currently live and own a small business in SE Portland. Thank you for your work and thank you for making time to hear from the public.

I have witnessed first-hand the devastation caused by family and friend who struggled with addiction. Addiction is not pretty or convenient, and most folks who do not struggle with addiction don't want to have to see addicted people or deal with the fall-out of their erratic and sometimes destructive behavior. But people who struggle with addiction do not need to be locked away from society, they need help and they need community support. That is why I voted for Measure 110 and why I encourage you to support ample funding for Measure 110's initiatives through Senate Bill number 755.

Addiction is not just something wrong with an individual person, it is an expression by an individual person of the ills plaguing greater society. Oregon was already in the midst of an addiction crisis before the Covid19 pandemic, with one to two Oregonians dying from a drug overdose every day, and one in 10 Oregonians struggling with Substance Use Disorder. The pandemic has only created more desperation and addiction has only increased.

We as a society need to feed people, we need to house people, we need to provide people with access to mental health and addiction services. How we have been dealing with folks struggling with addiction by criminalizing their behavior instead of supporting them through treatment is not working. All that does is remove the unsightly blemish of addiction from the public eye. It does not alleviate suffering or resolve the actual issue of my fellow Oregonians suffering and dying from addiction.

When it comes to the recovery services needed to help people struggling with addiction, we need to invest in services for where the most urgent need exists. Measure 110 was intended to fund critical recovery services that already exist (but are currently underfunded), and to expand housing assistance, peer support, and harm reduction services. These are critical services.

Please ensure funding for the mandates in Measure 110. Please support funding these critical services in Senate Bill number 755.

Thank you for your time.
Jaydra Perfetti
Resident, SE Portland