

I live in North Tillamook County and am concerned with issues of racial and social justice. I care deeply about protecting the fabric of our community.

I see friends and neighbors every day who struggle with addiction and lack of access to get the help that they so badly need. There is nothing more heartbreaking than knowing someone who desperately wants help, but cannot get it.

As we know all too well here in Tillamook County, Oregon is facing an addiction crisis. Nearly one in ten Oregonians over the age of twelve suffers from substance use disorder, and 281,758 Oregonians who have needed treatment within the last year were unable to get it. Our community is not immune from this. Meanwhile, addiction is treated as a crime, rather than a healthcare issue. Oregon arrests nearly 9,000 people per year for personal drug possession, disproportionately targeting Black, Indigenous, and LGBTQ+ community members. This approach ruins lives, is costly to taxpayers, and it's not working. It's time to shift to a more humane, health-based approach to drugs. THANKFULLY, voters passed Measure 110 last November in a historic vote!

I supported Measure 110 because instead of criminalizing people struggling with addiction, Measure 110 allows Oregon to expand access to treatment and recovery services that will better serve our communities. Measure 110 also allows Oregon to reduce criminal penalties for drug possession. People of color face unfair racial disparities at every stage of the criminal justice system. Black and Indigenous people are 3 times more likely to be arrested compared to whites, despite using drugs at similar rates. Drug arrests can set up lifelong barriers to access housing, employment, student loans, and professional licenses, making it nearly impossible for people to get their lives back on track. For immigrants and refugees, the criminalization of addiction can lead to families being torn apart.

Measure 110, when implemented as SB755, would nearly *eliminate* racial disparities for drug arrests and convictions, according to the report released by the Oregon Secretary of State and conducted by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission!

It's time to truly begin to help people who have fallen through the cracks here in Tillamook County and throughout the state. It's time to stop the unfair criminalization of people who suffer from addiction.

Please FULLY IMPLEMENT SB 755 immediately and put the will of Oregon voters into action.