

Submitter: Joseph Arpaia

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1541

My name is Joseph Arpaia, MD. I am an addiction medicine physician in Lane County. It appears that the proposed bill will take a significant amount of money away from the drug treatment that was authorized in Measure 110 by the voters in 2020. I have two concerns with this.

First, as an addiction medicine specialist, drug treatment services are underfunded already and there is not enough to meet the demand caused by Measure 110. We know that decriminalization without treatment is pointless. So cutting funding for treatment that is already underfunded does not make sense.

Second, as a citizen, I consider it a breach of ethics for state representatives to pass legislation that takes money authorized by the electorate for a specific purpose and uses it for an unrelated purpose. Measure 110 passed with 60% of the vote. That is a substantial majority who voted for that measure expecting that money would be used to fund treatment. Taking that money away from its intended purpose is a violation of your public duty.

Now if my assessment about the financial impact of this bill is incorrect, i.e. it will not take money away from treatment, then please let me know. Thank you.