

Dear Legislators,

I am writing regarding your upcoming hearings on Ballot Measure 110. As someone who works downtown and has a family member in recovery, it is my opinion that this law has been a disaster for livability and for those it purports to help.

Almost every time I walk around the city, I encounter someone high on drugs or someone actively consuming drugs. As a 59 year-old of small stature, I can tell you it is very intimidating to pass by someone screaming at the top of their lungs or careening down the sidewalk. Talking to women in our office, many feel threatened by this kind of behavior and would prefer we relocate to a safer part of town. When I talk to friends from other states, they are incredulous that we endure this kind of environment. Our office lease comes up for renewal in 2025, when we will need to determine if we should relocate to a suburban location so we can attract and retain talent essential for our company.

Regarding those struggling with addiction, Measure 110 also seems to be a failure. One of my family members has been in and out of recovery for decades. Through that, I have learned quite a bit about the dynamics of addiction. Offering support with recovery is absolutely essential. Equally important, though, is not enabling behavior through unhelpful kinds of assistance. This includes sheltering addicts from the consequences of their choices. By decriminalizing the use of hard drugs, the state removed one of the most important penalties that can lead people to seek help. Instead, people can consume drugs without repercussion, which encourages continued addiction.

For these reasons, I strongly believe that the legislature needs to make fundamental changes to Measure 110. Recriminalizing consumption of hard drugs is a crucial first step. I recommend you do so with all possible speed.

Thank you very much for your service to our state and for considering this input.

Sincerely,

Malcolm McIver  
President