

Chairs Lieber and Kropf, members of the Joint Interim Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response,

Our leaders need to provide the accessible housing, drug treatment, and mental health care that people need and voters have overwhelmingly supported. We also need to move beyond scare tactics and fear mongering. Controversial and divisive proposals to repeal Measure 110 are not the answer.

The goal of your work should be to ensure everyone who seeks addiction recovery services can receive them quickly, easily, and in a way that meets their unique needs — especially the Black, Latinx, Indigenous, tribal, Native and other communities of color disproportionately affected by the war on drugs.

Any approach should be evidence-informed and solutions-oriented, bringing together all parties working on the front lines of this crisis, from behavioral health providers and law enforcement, to policymakers, local community leaders, first responders, and more.

We shouldn't expect the police to solve social problems like mental illness, homelessness, or addiction — and we cannot arrest our way out of these problems. It's time for solutions that let mental health and drug treatment professionals help people who need and want treatment, reducing waiting lists and lines for detox services and not returning to the harmful war on drugs that disproportionately impacted Black and Brown Oregonians.

We know the real solution is to expand access to treatment services and I urge the committee to focus on helping and healing our communities in this way.

Sincerely,

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