

Dear Oregon Legislature,

The legalization of hard drugs has wreaked havoc on my neighborhood and my workplace. In my neighborhood, people living on the streets openly use drugs, menace neighbors (including children), and show no respect for the rules of a functioning society. Whether the cause is mental illness, addiction, or both, no individual has the right to threaten and disrespect their neighbors. I live near what used to be a thriving commercial street (SE Division near Cesar Chavez), but approximately 50% of the retail space within 2 blocks of my home is vacant, several buildings occupied by squatters. I have no doubt this is due to ongoing problems with vagrancy and the collapse in tourism due to the lawlessness caused by Measure 110.

Near my office, there is not a day that goes by that I don't personally witness someone using drugs. Now they huddle under blankets, but it's still obvious and drug dealers operate in the open. In one week late last summer, I witnessed a naked man high on meth(?) aggressively masturbating until he bled. I also witnessed a man and woman having sex in the alcove window of the US Bank a tower while I was exercising in the gym 5 feet away. Both incidents were in broad daylight and both were obvious people living on the streets using drugs.

I've had it. I'm a lifelong Democrat and liberal, but Portland has become unrecognizable and cruel. I have young children that I cannot bring up in this environment. We are currently shopping for Vancouver/Camas/Washougal real estate. Our work situation is such that at least 50% of our income will leave the state should we relocate and we are in the top 1% of earners in Oregon.

Sincerely,

Cassandra Kerr
Portland, OR 97214
Resident since 2004