

Hello there,

I was sent an email regarding testimony for a public hearing on measure 110. It had a link to send written testimony and I have decided to send testimony regarding measure 110.

I live in NW Portland, close to downtown. I can tell you the effects of 110 are glaring, even outside of my window as I sit down to write this. I'm the owner of a condo in an older building, every day when I'm not working I pick up garbage from the sidewalk early in the morning. I have witnessed many, many things that would be considered very wrong in a civilized society, as a result of measure 110, as far as I can surmise.

I want to keep it as brief as I can, so I will just go through one episode. Just as it was becoming light out, I was walking with my garbage bag and tongs when a shady figure passed by me. Not a big deal because it's normal to see a "houseless" person pass by. But then he came back, wide eyed and with a straw and lighter in hand, asking to go through my garbage bag for paper. I had only picked up a couple of things at that point and told him so, but he continued to rummage through my bag anyway. He picked out a couple of the most measly scraps of paper and cardboard you could imagine, and proceeded to tell me to keep walking because he had to "take a shit". I said "no, no don't do it here". Someone had been defecating on the sidewalk recently around the block, and on the side of a neighboring business. I didn't want him to poop in front of my house so I told him to go across the street, thinking that was a relatively better alternative, for myself anyway. Not an ideal situation. So he kind of scoffs like I was being too picky and walks away.

This was a young man, clearly with a drug problem. There are things like that that happen constantly. Every day that I go out to pick up garbage I hope I don't find something disgusting, but I always do, feces, someone passed out, graffiti where there was none, a car with a broken window. Just last Thanksgiving someone had set a pair of pants on fire on a parking sign in the middle of the night and I woke up to police putting out the fire with an extinguisher outside of my window. In the morning I picked up the half burned pants and swept up the ashes. This is constant. When I saw the young man going through my garbage bag it felt like it was such an incredible shame. He could be doing anything else with his life better than that. And I can promise you all up and down the street outside of my place there are people going through the same thing right now.

He is not going to get help unless forced to, because it is an affliction, it's a disease. He is not going to walk up out of his own free will to get clean because he is under the influence of the drug, and his will is rendered meaningless. That is not theory, that's practice and practical experience. Many many years ago, almost twenty, I used to use hard drugs myself, it's the dumbest thing ever. But I got arrested, and I can honestly say that it's the best thing that has happened to me in my life. It gave me a life. And it frustrates me and saddens me to see so many people who have had that opportunity taken from them. Please do something regarding measure 110.

Thank you.