

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

I am reaching out to you to call for real solutions, real safety, and real healing when it comes to addressing the overdose and addiction crisis. Leaders need to do more - and fast - to address the crisis in our community. They need to finally provide the 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.

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.

The solution to this problem is to not create "band-aid" policies, programs and pathways to help this situation but to address the root of the problems. Start with Universal Healthcare for all Oregonians. Let's take care of our people to the fullest extent! Let's stop playing the capitalism game with health insurance corporations. The next problem we need to address is the unaffordable housing crisis. It's not rocket science as to why people become houseless addicts! This is actually a very simple concept to grasp but instead of putting your nose to the grindstone and getting real change to happen, politicians even at the lowest level play PR games and don't actually care. I for myself, will be actively campaigning against anyone with a stale voting record or a record that does not align with a focus of actual action for the people. Promises, complaining, arguing, and lobbying will not get my vote in the future coming primaries and elections, I'm tired, along with the rest of the poor middle class, of politicians simping for billionaires and corporations because they give you money for your campaigns and your personal agendas. These band-aids are just a sponge to soak up funding that could be put to actually change at the deepest level! Let's work on creating an environment where people do not want to become addicts. Start by asking yourself, what causes someone to want to use or abuse drugs. Most of the time, it's because someone's basic needs are not being met. Meet basic needs for all people, mitigate the problem in the future.

Sincerely,  
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