

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

Until legislators and leaders admit we cannot incarcerate addiction then society will continue to suffer the consequences. What society needs are good policies that face the crisis of addiction straight ahead. More healthcare to treat drug addicts where they are on the streets and in our communities. Repealing Measure 110 will not help anything, in fact is counterproductive to return to incarceration as a solution, it just won't work!!! Addicts are stuck in a healthcare crisis, they need good treatment, good support, more funding for those agencies who can provide it. Providing the housing, drug treatment, and mental health care that addicts need and voters have overwhelmingly supported will help us begin to dig out way out of this epidemic. 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. We do not have to condone public drug use, but meet unhoused addicts where they live on the street and in our communities. Get up from behind your desk, mobilize volunteers, case workers, healthcare providers to meet these people where they are to provide services.

We know the real solution is to expand access to healthcare and treatment services. I urge the committee to focus on helping and healing our communities through increased services not repeal Measure 110 that's only the tip of the arrow toward healing.

Sincerely,
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