

Public comment by Emily Kennedy, Portland, OR

Measure 110 was an experiment. It failed. Other states are not following our lead. They see Oregon's mistake. The majority of Oregonians want it repealed. Instead of rehabilitating drug users, people are left to die on the streets with no consequence to themselves or the city/state. This is inhumane, exactly the opposite that was being sold by supporters of Measure 110. Crime is rampant. We want safer streets. We want to end dangerous open air use of hard drugs. We want police officers to be able to enforce the laws. We want accountability for users to get sober: going to jail, being on probation and/or mandatory drug rehab. Overdose and drug addiction statistics are rising sharper in Oregon than the rest of the country. According to OHSU, last year, the surge in fentanyl led to a 41% increase in overdose deaths in Oregon — compared with a 16% increase across the rest of the country. The fentanyl epidemic is ravaging Oregon, not only by creating an inhumane and dangerous environment with higher chance of becoming addicted and overdosing. But also dangerous economically for businesses and tourists because the general public can't enjoy Portland and the state of Oregon like we could even just 4-5 years ago. It's also incredibly depressing to live here and see it all happening before our eyes. People are leaving Oregon in record numbers. It's time to admit that the Measure 110 approach did not work. It needs to be repealed and replaced with tougher consequences that will make a difference, along with a much larger number and more efficient/organized/effective rehab services made available as quickly as possible.

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