

Good morning, my name is Lindsey Voorhees. I am a resident, mother of three young children, and early childhood education specialist. I'm also a former resource (foster) parent.

I appreciate you considering my written testimony to urge you to immediately repeal measure 110.

Since the passing of measure 110, I witnessed many horrific scenes in downtown Portland. Today I'd like to tell you about the one that still keeps me up at night.

Early this fall my husband and I were downtown to enjoy a celebratory anniversary dinner. We left the restaurant around 10:30 PM and as we were getting on the freeway, noticed two very distraught adults pulling a wagon with two young children, both under the age of eight. It was dark outside and apparent that both of the adults were under the influence. They were pulling the wagon through the streets into oncoming traffic, seemingly unaware of their surroundings. At one point we witnessed a vehicle almost strike the wagon with the two children in it.

At that point we decided to follow them from a safe distance and called 911 multiple times before we were able to get through. We continued to follow them until police arrived, about 20 minutes after the first phone call was made.

When police arrived, we described the situation and decided to wait in our car to find out what the result would be. After about 30 minutes of interactions between the police and the two intoxicated adults, we were told that there was simply nothing they could do to ensure the safety of these two children. They were left in the custody of these two adults, near midnight, in a very unsafe part of downtown, after almost being hit by a car due to negligence.

Sadly I am confident that stories like these are prolific since we have begun to publicly condone drug use via the passing of 110.

It must end. How many more children are we comfortable seeing at risk, or dead, due to this backward measure that did NOTHING to increase safety? I urge you to repeal it now.

My Best,  
Lindsey Voorhees