

Dear Legislators:

I write to urge you to enact legislation making possession of lethal drugs illegal again.

I have lived in Portland for 44 years. Until retirement, I operated a small business in Portland. To understand the devastation that Measure 110 has caused, one needs to live, work, or walk within the city. Drug-addicted individuals have taken over public property, including spaces in or near parks, playgrounds and schools, and set up tent camps, leaving trash and biohazards everywhere. Derelict automobiles and RVs can be found in virtually every part of the city. No one's personal property is safe. Crime, including assaults, is rampant. Hit and run incidents, including pedestrians who are run down, are at an all-time high. This city is no longer viable. It has gone from being the cleanest, most livable city in the country to a dysfunctional, dystopian mess.

I no longer venture downtown. One of the last times I did, I was at a major intersection on a weekday afternoon. Gunshots rang out. No one in the area seemed surprised, probably because the event was so common. In my formerly quiet neighborhood, active shooters have sprayed bullets randomly on more than one occasion. Just blocks from my house, a 12-year-old boy who was on a bicycle within a crosswalk was hit by a speeding car. The driver not only did not stop to assist the boy; she cursed him for being in her way and sped off. Neighbors report thefts and break-ins on a daily basis.

If personal circumstances permitted, my wife and I would have left Portland long ago. What we are experiencing is a breakdown of civil order. And much of it can be traced back to the passage of Measure 110.

I ask that you give law enforcement the ability to place addicts in mandatory treatment programs, that you increase penalties for drug dealing and public drug use, that you provide funding for criminal defense so that violators can be prosecuted instead of being released, that you prohibit the appropriation of public property for private use, and that you take all necessary action to return our streets and neighborhoods to us.

Sincerely,
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