

As a physician, the scourge of fentanyl cannot be overstated. I'm one of a few who have seen fentanyl utilized in the operating room effectively and safely for my patients as well as seen it smoked openly more than once on a sidewalk in downtown Portland.

Its damage to our society will be looked at negatively by historians for decades.

10 people die per week in Oregon on average from using it. Not to mention gun crime increases because drug dealers carry and use guns illegally

No greater responsibility for our politicians/government exists than to protect Oregonians and all Americans from it.

I urge you to act to protect the innocent and the addicted by reducing the supply and demand of this powerful and deadly drug. Take action to save lives in every manner possible.

Name it a bioterrorism agent if necessary as it is an existential threat based on the number of annual deaths in this country.

I am writing to urge you to make changes to Measure 110 when you meet in February.

In addition to tougher penalties for drug dealers and giving cities the tools to regulate public drug use more strictly, the legislature should also make possession and use of hard drugs a crime again. Law enforcement must have the tools to incentivize people to seek and accept treatment.

Tough(er) love is the right thing to do and is long overdue.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
David Westerdahl MD