

Joint Interim Committee On Addiction and Community

Oregonians were clear when we voted overwhelmingly for Measure 110 in 2020. Addiction must be addressed with treatment and support, not punishment and jail.

We need lawmakers to continue building the drug treatment system Oregonians need, rather than revert to harmful strategies that do not make us safer or address the root causes of addiction, crime, and homelessness.

Policies that include forced treatment and arresting people with addictions haven't worked in the past and won't start working now. Instead, they deepen stigmas and isolate Oregonians who most need our help. Jail and prison time typically worsen drug use and overdoses, and criminal records create additional barriers to housing, education, and jobs.

The war on drugs especially devastated communities of color and low-income communities, inflicting generational poverty and trauma on families and furthering the drug addiction crisis.

I particularly want to draw your attention to a new service opening in our county, as a result of Measure 110: The Looking Glass PEER shelter. This 20+ bed facility is a low barrier shelter for houseless youth, ages 16-24. The shelter is intended to serve youth who have challenges with behaviors or addiction that have prevented them from being successfully sheltered in other locations. They accept pets, couples, and do not have a requirement to engage in services initially – though within a few weeks youth who stay at the shelter must be working toward some self-directed goals to get on a better path. This shelter is funded by Measure 110 through the Behavioral Health Resource Network that Looking Glass is a part of, and they can provide sobering services. If you are interested in learning more about this new resource, please visit their website: [PEER Shelter — Looking Glass Community Services](#)

Returning to the not-so-good old days of attempting to punish our way out of Oregon's addictions issues has not been successful. Intentional focusing on the challenges and problems we've learned over the initial implementation of Measure 110 makes much more sense.

As one of your constituents, I am counting on you to lead with evidence-based health policies and Oregon values, not fear and stigma. Oregonians do not want false promises from our elected leaders that worsen the drug addiction crisis in our communities and make it more difficult and expensive to solve.

Please focus on strengthening Measure 110, increasing access to voluntary treatment, and funding trash clean-up and neighborhood revitalization efforts.

Sincerely,

Diana Avery