

Co-chairs Lieber & Kropf and members of the committee--

I write in support of staying the course and preserving the will of the voters who overwhelmingly supported Measure 110 in 2020.

I live in SE Portland and work in Downtown Portland. I see, I am saddened by, and I am angered by the suffering that I sometimes see. I want all people to be healthy, make choices that support their health, and to feel safe in the city and state that I chose as my home and love.

I know that you are feeling pressure to act swiftly. And I know that you are feeling pressure to be compassionate. And you're being led to believe that those are in conflict with one another. I believe that's a false dichotomy.

Instead I urge you to be leaders. Lead by demonstrating that sustainable solutions deserve time to work. Surely we gave harmful policies more than 50 years to harm our state, communities, and neighbors, particularly our most marginalized neighbors.

Ensuring that treatment and housing are available for all Oregonians in the moments when they have the willingness to seek them will increase their likelihood of attaining recovery, housing and a good life. I know this from my own personal experience. When people I care about were ready for help, thanks to their access to financial resources, they could get them help that they needed. And it worked.

Every Oregonian deserves this access. And when the infrastructure is build out, more Oregonians will get help, will help others get help, and the tragic and sad outcomes that we soo too often will diminish.

It is not Measure 110 that's causing the issues we see--plenty of other states have higher overdose rates. Measure 110 is the path out.

Sincerely,  
Aron Klein  
Portland, OR