

Hello,

My name is Joe Rogerson and I reside in the Woodstock Neighborhood of Portland, Oregon. I have been a resident of Portland since 1989 and have lived in the Metro area all of my life. I have three teenage children who attend Portland Public Schools.

I would like to express my concerns about Measure 110 and the impact that it has made on the livability of my neighborhood and the city at large.

While the intentions of Measure 110 may have been noble and altruistic, the effects of the measure have been a disaster.

- It is not uncommon for me to see groups of people smoking or shooting up drugs on public sidewalks or bus stops in full view of families and children.
- I have noticed an increase in drug paraphernalia (and sometimes drugs) at the park where I regularly walk my dog.
- I have seen the boldness of the drug users turn to aggression towards people who try to discourage open drug use.
- I believe that the lax drug rules attract drug users from other areas due to there being no consequences to drug possession.
- I understand the frustration of police having no course of action to discourage open drug use. Why make an effort to enforce societal rules when society has in effect legalized the disregard of those rules?
- Although this law seems to be trying to improve the lot of those caught up in addiction, the law has encouraged a free-for-all atmosphere where drugs are readily available and open to use at any time. This atmosphere is not conducive to recovery from addiction.
- I feel reservations about walking in my neighborhood at night, something I have not felt since moving to Woodstock in 2005. When my teenage children leave to go to work or school, it is always in the back of my mind that they will have an encounter with using or high individuals. The days when I feel comfortable about my 15 year old daughter walking to the library safely are gone.
- I believe that compassionate enforcement of societal rules is key to relieving us from the homelessness plaguing the city. When tax-paying and law abiding citizens see no consequences for aggressive and open drug use by others, it leads to resentment and hostility. This law is pushing us further away from a solution to the homeless problem in Portland.

For these reasons, the livability of Portland has been worsened, for the housed and unhoused.

If this continues, those who have the means will leave and those who don't have the means to leave will suffer.

The law has failed and needs to be repealed as soon as possible.

Thank you,
Joe Rogerson