

Good morning Joint Interim Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

I'm writing to ask you to continue support for Measure 110. I personally come from a long family history of addiction and incarceration. I'm confident that if my father would have received comprehensive addiction treatment and rehabilitation, that he could have avoided years struggling with his illness and multiple stays of jail and prison. In addition to the time we will never get back due to our current systems of punishment.

We all agree that leaders need to do more - and fast - to address the crisis in our communities and save lives. They need to finally provide the housing, drug treatment, and mental health care that people need and voters have overwhelmingly supported. The goal of your work should be to ensure everyone who seeks addiction recovery services can receive them quickly, easily, and in a way that meets their unique needs — especially the Black, Latinx, Indigenous, tribal, Native and other communities of color disproportionately affected by the War on Drugs.

I please urge you to reject the calls to return to the failed War on Drugs program. We all deserve to be safe, regardless of where we live, how we look, or who we are. The reliance on punishment and prison hasn't worked – we can improve public safety by focusing on preventing and addressing the root causes of crime — like poverty and lack of opportunity. We need to invest in proven solutions, such as access to mental health and addiction services.

I want to thank the committee for the thoughtful approach you are taking in addressing the addiction crisis in our state, looking at the entire system, and the dire needs in our community.

Respectfully,

**Michelle L. Casey** (*she/her*)  
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