

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.

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,

Phoenix Oaks