

I should begin by saying that I did not vote for Measure 110. Although I was convinced that mass incarceration of addicts has never been an effective response to the problems caused by dangerous drugs I was not convinced that Measure 110 provided enough lead time to establish better treatments. I thought that Measure 110 put the cart before the horse.

The recent growth in problems associated with dangerous drug use, especially Fentanyl, are not limited to Oregon. Measure 110 may have had the effect of making the state a more attractive place for addicts, but the other 49 state which did not decriminalize dangerous drugs are also experiencing a growing number of deaths and other problems related to drugs. This argues that simply repealing Measure 110 is the wrong approach.

I think that the next legislative session should focus on reducing the supply of dangerous drugs rather than on punishing users. Simply re-criminalizing possession and use of even small quantities of dangerous drugs merely takes us back to an approach has *never* worked. The fact is that addicts are not deterred by the threat of jail time. All that matters to an addict is ending the pain of withdrawal. Moreover, re-criminalization of use will overburden law enforcement, the courts, and the prisons, preventing these resources from being used in better ways.

Measure 110 has not yet solved the problem of curing addicts, but a return to jailing them is still an ineffective solution just as it was before Measure 110. Instead let's use this opportunity to make drug dealing very unprofitable and virtually certain to lead to very long prison terms — **for manufacturers and dealers**. Focus on the *sources* of drugs rather than on the *users* of drugs.

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