Dear Oregon Legislative Assembly Committee,

I would like to go into full detail of a long story about my 45 year old brother and drugs but I won't because I am worried you won't read all of it so I have condensed it into points:

1. My brother was a Trimet bus driver who had a psychotic break and was diagnosed with a serious mental illness at age 45.

2. He refused to get help and turned to street drugs to ease his pain. He lost his relationship with his child and his wife divorced him and he almost died.

3. No one could help my family help him because he was an adult refusing treatment and he was out on the streets buying and using in a state that allowed it. He had run-ins with the law but nothing was ever done to help him while he was living in Multnomah County.

4. During a psychotic episode he fled to another state (AZ) where drugs and crazy behavior in public are not allowed and he was arrested. Thankfully he was NOT IN OREGON or he would have NEVER gotten help. Arizona put him in a treatment program, on probation and then he was mandated to spend 1 year in a sober living house. It's was during this time he reclaimed his life.

5. He has been clean and sober for 2 years.

6. He almost lost his life and now feels very sad about all the people on the streets here openly using and just left to their own devices. He recognizes that he would be dead had he not gone to Arizona where none of this is legal.

7. You have to stop allowing people to really use drugs and the handing out of tickets is a joke and we all know it. You must act now and repeal this insidious law that was surreptitiously crafted and put on the ballot to look like something it was not. People who voted for it did not know what it meant because it was not clear and now, clearly not working.

I am tired of living in Portland and watching this failure. I am moving but wanted to share this story before I leave to another state that actually works for their citizens and cares about their communities.

Sincerely,

Tracy

Multnomah County Resident