

Although the idea of Measure 110 showed great progressive vision. Divert drug addicts from the penal system into treatment. Sounds great. But somehow, despite HJRA's insistence, decriminalization has virtually become legalization.

Our first failure in modeling m110 after Portugal is that **we do not have an equivalent system of communal pressure**. There, decriminalization is paired with the direct (or even passive) involvement of tighter knit communities, larger family structures, and provincial sensibilities that can function in population-dense cities.

Without that societal lever, what do we have? In the US, we use one tool for everything, and that is penalty. But what if there were a way to strike a better balance, where public drug use was not allowed, where our police force worked in direct partnership with systems of diversion.

Just because our communities cannot tolerate rampant public drug dealing and use DOES NOT mean that we believe substance abusers belong forever in the penal system. WE WANT THEM TO GET TREATMENT, but right now, they aren't. We were too slow to roll out treatment and letting addicts choose to go into treatment on their own time is essentially okaying them dying on the streets.

The goal here is not to defund treatment, but rather ask ourselves, how can we mitigate this damage, and do more than simply enable users to do drugs without societal repercussions?

Measure 110 needs fixing. Please listen to the constituents. This isn't working.