

I submit the following testimony to the Joint Interim Committee on Addition and Community Safety Response regarding Measure 110.

My name is Lisa Levsen. I am a registered Democrat living in House District 13 in Eugene, Oregon. As a volunteer, I serve the hungry and unhoused people breakfast and lunch 4 days a week in Washington Jefferson Park with an organization called Breakfast Brigade. I have been working with Breakfast Brigade (formerly Eugene Catholic Workers) since 2020. My testimony is personal and is not on behalf of Breakfast Brigade as an organization.

The guests that we serve suffer from extreme mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction and poverty. Approximately 40% of the guests that we serve are dealing with drug and alcohol addiction. Many of them talk about going into rehab tomorrow, but tomorrow never comes. There are drug dealers openly selling drugs in the Park, and we have asked the Eugene Police Department to arrest them. The drug dealers are still openly dealing. We now keep Narcan in our first aid kit so that we can apply it in case of a guest overdose at breakfast.

We regularly provide transport of guests with medical needs to the hospital. Many of them have open wounds and rotting flesh because of Tranq. Many have had some or all of their toes amputated because they are diabetic and are still taking drugs and alcohol.

I recognize that we are providing food, supplies, and resources that help to keep them alive. But we are not improving their quality of life. While they may have the intention of one day going to rehab or a treatment program, the reality is that they never will until they are forced to do so. And many of them are slowly dying.

I also know that this same situation is occurring everywhere in Oregon. Please repeal or revise Measure 110 to actually help those with drug and alcohol addiction. There needs to be a structure to force addicts into treatment programs. I realize this is strong language, but it is a reality. They don't have the strength or will power to resist the drugs and alcohol themselves. There needs to be consequence for dealing drugs. I haven't even touched on the crimes committed by people trying to get money for drugs or the crimes and acts they are forced to commit when they can't pay their drug dealers.

Measure 110 is destroying lives and harming our communities. I ask your committee to work towards a better solution for Oregon and its more fragile citizens by repealing or revising Measure 110 to actually work.

Sincerely yours,

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