

Hi there,

I voted for Measure 110, and still believe in some of its core concepts (namely that the prison system is not the solution for those suffering from addiction). But the law as it stands is flawed and needs change. Most notably, we need mandatory treatment.

I know, people will say that success rates are much higher for those who opt into treatment, and I don't dispute that. But what are success rates for those with untreated addiction? These are people with a chemical addiction that overtakes their decision-making, so expecting a rational decision is asking a lot. Much more likely, they will commit crimes to feed their addiction. By mandating treatment these people have a chance to get clean and make decisions that are in their (and society's) best interest, even if we expect resistance.

I know that the success rate probably won't be high, especially at first, and maybe even in the long term. This is a very difficult problem we're fighting. But we can't continue to leave people on the street who can't be held accountable for their decisions, people who are a danger to themselves and others. They need help, even if their addiction makes them say they don't. Please take action.

thanks,  
beeman