

Good afternoon,

My name is Anthony Umphrey. I am a born and raised Oregonian, 31 year local. I wanted to share my story with you. I grew up in southern Oregon. central point, medford area. I personally struggled with homelessness and opiate addiction for 5 years and am a large part of the NA community here. Currently 7 years clean, own my own business and have had the great displeasure of seeing this policy fail. A growing sentiment in the recovery community here. Personally, if I had not taken place in the system that used to be in place I know I would have undoubtedly died in my addiction. Jail gave me time to sit in my choices and decide that was not the life that I wanted to live, and the court program (ROC court) gave me the resources, community, and support to find my way out of that life and feel People like myself are examples that the old system did work. I do agree with policy makers that felony charges for drug use are not necessary, but that does not mean poor decisions and crime should be an accepted norm in our beautiful state. The way the current measure stands, and our current system works it feels like an unjust way for the state to cut costs and ignore the issue. Its not ok. We do not have the social programs in place for a full decriminalization policy to work and its doubtful that we ever will. Many people in the recovery community, myself included..urge you to rethink measure 110. We need to find a middle ground. We need punishment for crimes, resource management to social recovery programs, reintegration, and rehabilitation. While in addiction that is the last thing on any of our minds..we need the extra push, even if we dont appreciate it in the moment. 110 has failed, anyone looking around can see that. Please push for a reform. Our state is losing this battle. Many of us have hope for this beautiful state, but not if this is the path it continues down.