

To: Joint Interim Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Re: Measure 110

Hrg: Dec. 4, 2023, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

My name is Caren Caldwell from Ashland, Oregon. I am a retired minister and parent of a young man who has a mental illness and uses drugs.

The crisis system, which includes Behavioral health services as well as police, has incredibly scant resources in the State of Oregon to help drug users reach recovery. Our state is last on the list of states that successfully treat and house people in addiction.

Jailing people creates trauma, distrust, and criminal histories that thwart many people trying to get off drugs. Meas. 110 has provided new funding to expand crisis services in my county. Those services, among the crisis system as a whole, are paying for peer supports and programs that allow clients to receive the help they need. Peer supports have been found to provide one of the most effective services within the treatment system.

Instead of putting people into a traumatic system – that is, jail and criminalization – we need to expand the treatment system to include housing, interpersonal peer support, and family counseling, the things that really help people when they want to leave drugs behind them.

I am asking you to maintain these features of Meas. 110. Let's stay away from traumatizing people and provide the programs that really heal.

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