

Dear City Legislatures,

I write to you with genuine concern regarding measure 110. As a paramedic for AMR in Multnomah county, most of my days are occupied with responding to the homeless and drug addicted overdoses. During one of my shifts last week, we responded to 10 homeless overdoses in the course of a 12 hour shift. How can I serve the other, positive-contributing members of our community when I am busy responding to the same vagrant who shows no interest nor progress in rehabilitating themselves?

These people need help but will not seek it on their own. I implore you to revise measure 110 and create accountability. I have worked in the 911 system in Ohio, as well as Florida, and this county's drug crisis overshadows anything I've ever encountered during my EMS career; this is the first time I've been encouraged, as a medical responder, to wear a bullet-proof vest at all times on shift. Please repeal the legality of heroine, fentanyl, and methamphetamines for the sake of our community. Please hold our drug-addicted community members accountable for their own sakes. (I.E. requiring rehab hours and attendance while redirecting funds away from providing them with more needles and drug paraphernalia).

Until we make a change, I will continue to witness our tragic community first-hand as a first responder.

Respectfully,

David Blackthorne