

Over the past three years, Portland has faced challenges in the form of homelessness, crime, and addiction. Residents in some areas have grown fearful; tourism has declined; some long-time businesses have shuttered and relocated. Our once vaunted city has garnered unwelcome national press detailing its "demise." A key component affecting our collective quality of life has been the prevalence of unchecked drug use. While measure 110 had laudable goals, it has been an almost unmitigated failure. Our already inadequate level of addiction treatment was no match for the increase in drug use seen after its enactment. Data show clearly that simply issuing citations and offering a hotline for voluntary treatment are ineffective. Only by substantively changing 110 or repealing it will Portland and the rest of our state be able to take greater control over drug use. Allowing those beset by addiction to drugs to continue to suffer is neither in their best interest nor the best interest of the community. I love Portland and the state of Oregon. I want them to be the very best version of themselves: clean, compassionate, and vibrant. We cannot simply stay the course and hope that things return to normal.