

Hello Co-chair Lieber, Co-chair Kroff, members of the committee, for the record my name is Dr. Sandeep Bali, a pharmacist specializing in HIV care, mental health, and addiction issues. I'm also running for Portland city council, District 3. I'm here to address the concerns surrounding Measure 110 and advocate for its immediate repeal.

The measure allows excessive possession of opioids, surpassing legitimate medical needs and enabling their distribution for non-medical use. Fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid, is a prime example. Fentanyl's rise in illicit forms has worsened overdose deaths due to its increased potency and addictive traits.

Reducing penalties for carrying substantial amounts of these substances to minor fines, inadvertently encourages their sales in illegal drug markets. Such leniency fails to address the core issue of addiction and neglects the urgent need for comprehensive rehabilitation services.

Oregon has witnessed a troubling surge in opioid-related deaths and emergency room visits post-implementation of Measure 110. This data indicates a concerning trend wherein the measure's provisions are not curbing addiction but exacerbating it.

Repealing Measure 110 is crucial. Mandatory treatment programs should be prioritized to provide structured care for individuals grappling with substance abuse disorders.

Law enforcement units must be equipped to direct individuals towards treatment programs, bridging the gap between crisis intervention and effective rehabilitation.

Additionally, long-term care facilities are essential. Long term substance abuse can result in irreparable damage, necessitating specialized care to help individuals get back into society successfully.

In conclusion, the unintended consequences of Measure 110 are evident: increased homelessness, amplified addiction rates, and exacerbated mental health challenges. Let us repeal Measure 110, not just for statistics or policies but for the individuals craving a way out of addiction's clutches.

Thank you.