

Dear Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response,
Being a treatment provider since 1997 , I prefer to be person centered where a relationship building approach is more effective. Admitting people into the treatment continuum, especially where harm and trauma have been increased through racialized criminalization, White people get treatment and not jail, Black people get jail and no treatment, even when arrested at the same time for the same drug related offense. Multiplying those trends over decades, then M110 with its services to "populations most affected by the war on drugs"...is an attempt to apply medical solutions to all.

Part of my current efforts with The Indignity and Latino BHRNs in Multnomah County, is doing outreach harm reduction and treatment access services to non white populations. These populations have long gone untreated for SUD, mental health, and medical neglect and other health disparities. All compounding problems which the criminal justice system was never designed to resolve effectively, thus they go untreated.

I'm currently a member of BHRN providers as part of OBBIAC (Oregon Black Brown Indigenous Advocacy Coalition) to train workforce practitioners of color, and increase the efficacy of the Oregon system.

I have been engaged in workforce training among Black/Latino, and Indigenous populations which are doing effective M110 funded work, getting people into productive lives, employed, and engaged in reducing the problems which concern your committee. Recriminalization to any degree further compounds the problem, after traveling to Portugal to learn firsthand what was effective the overall consensus was it took between 5 1/2 to 8 years before any significant change occurred with the drug and crime problems, Don't mistake a show and tell by Portland Police of what defund the police looks like to be a excuse to undo all the good work BM110 has started. Hundreds of Black/ Brown and Indigenous peers and counselors would lose employment , and several culturally specific treatment agencies would close their doors. Peers would probably relapse and reoffend as a ripple effect of recriminization.

In closing it took fifty years or more to get to this point in drugs and crime. Crime and inability to access treatment services were rampant prior to measure 110, why not blame it on failed policies, bike lanes, empty jails(Wapato), drug free zones, bridge studies (I-5), which wasted countless dollars that could have been directed into our almost non existent behavioral health structure. Portland's slogan for the nation is "Keep Portland Weird" now that it's gotten really weird don't blame it on measure 110. Give measure 110 time we can always go back to what's not working, the failed war on drugs.

Oregon Black Brown Advocacy Coalition's shared purpose is to build the power of people and communities most negatively impacted by the failed war on drugs and uphold and support non white organizations of color in those communities.

Fresh Out Community Based Reentry Program

Going Home II

Juntos

Miracles Club

Oregon Change Clinic

SoValti

Larry Turner, AS,CADCII, CRM 2, CGRM, CHW, QMHA

"I freed a thousand slaves. I could have freed a thousand more if only they had known they were slaves."

—Harriet Tubman