

Hi. Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I am writing to ask you to repeal measure 110. As an addict in recovery for 7 years I can tell you this measure has been extremely detrimental to my community. When I speak of community I'm not speaking of Portland or even Oregon. I'm speaking of addicts. There is a saying in my community that goes something like this : To baby and addict is to bury an addict. Unfortunately we can't love, plead, pay, bribe or force an addict to get clean. It's the only disease I'm aware of that the addict cures for themselves by taking the first step. Handing an addict a business card and a ticket is a waste of the paper is written on. I can't tell you how many times I've sat in meetings and heard "I'm only here because I had a nudge from a judge"

Leaving addicts to their own discretion is a death sentence. It creates crime, exasperated mental illness and homeless. It makes a terrible situation worse.

While I think I agree that we need more access to treatment and therapy, removing consequences isn't the way to get there. Can we just start over. Maybe talk to less special interests and advocate groups that have something to gain. Go to an AA, NA,CA,MA or HA meeting. There are thousands of open meetings anyone can attend in Oregon. Talk to the people willing to talk in the rooms. Listen to their stories. How they got to recovery. How they stay clean. There are thousands of us out here. All of our stories are different and the exact same. At some point we made a decision.

Thank you!