

Dear Co-chairs Lieber and Kropf and Members of the Committee:

Oregonians deserve real healing, real safety, and real solutions to drug addiction and overdose deaths. Our leaders must do more to address the crisis in our communities, but regressing back to failed drug war policies is not the answer.

Hello, my name is Sarah Grantham, I know firsthand that measure 110 is vital to Oregonians who suffer from substance use disorder.

I'd like to share a story that's very close to my heart. My aunt has suffered with substance use for many years. She has had many experiences with recovery services offered in the Willamette Valley, including at one time being a Peer Support advocate herself.

For over a decade I have watched her work diligently to stay substance free and find housing. She has been doing this while fighting an ailing body.

She has been approved for a life changing shoulder surgery, now that they have OHP coverage. They have spent countless hours facing systematic obstacles just to get this far in the process. I have personally helped them make calls, read paperwork, and offer any support I can as the some of only times she has been able to maintain sobriety has been when she has had access to low barrier housing.

She is unable to get this surgery scheduled until she finds stable housing in order to heal properly. Measure 110 funding is an avenue to get the help she needs. So that she can get back into the community and family she has been fighting to return to.

Being a public servant myself, I've had first hand experience with new programs, laws and processes.

I am asking that you not give up on her and all many other Oregonians and allow measure 110 to grow past stages of infancy.

Criminal penalties for people suffering from addiction disproportionately jails Black and Brown Oregonians and hurts people who are struggling. Courts are not qualified to determine whether or not a person needs drug treatment, nor should we force people into treatment when they are not ready to be successful in their recovery.

We deserve real solutions. Oregonians need housing, drug treatment, and mental health care -- and the needs are urgent. We must expand services so that people who want mental health and drug treatment can get it, and we need to reduce waiting lists and lines for detox services.

Handcuffs and jail cells cannot solve behavioral and public health problems like mental illness, homelessness, or addiction. I urge the committee to focus on helping our communities with real solutions that help people heal.

Sincerely,

Sarah Grantham
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