

Chairs Lieber and Kropf, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Ralph Tinsley. I'm a Sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous with over 18 ½ years of sobriety and currently work as a full time Lead Peer Support Specialist in Jackson County, Oregon and here is how I am connected to this issue.

I am calling for real work that'll offer safety and healing to members of our community that are afflicted with addiction, and or have mental health needs. Our leaders need to do more to address the crisis in our community. What is most needed is to provide the housing, residential treatment, and mental health care that people in our community really need and to which I as a voter support, and which I know many more community members support as well. We also need to eliminate the scare tactics. These controversial and divisive proposals to repeal Measure 110 are not the answer. So many unaffordable apartments are being built that do not help the population currently in crisis, and empty buildings scattered across our community show there is so much more that can be done to actually help our houseless population as well as those still suffering from addiction. The empty buildings can be used to offer treatment, housing, or warming/cooling shelters. The multiple weeks wait time from detox to residential treatment is no help either. With so many empty buildings in town, let's convert them so they'll be useful to those in need .. the people of our community!

To me it is very clear that the real solution is to expand access to affordable housing and treatment services. I urge the committee to focus on helping and healing our communities.

Thanks so much for your time.

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