

I am writing to express my strong support for preserving the integrity of Measure 110 in Oregon and to underscore the critical need for expanding treatment services to combat the escalating addiction crisis in our state.

**Immediate Action is Crucial:**

Oregon communities are facing an urgent need for additional treatment services, especially in Portland, where the current lack of capacity has led to a crisis on our streets. I urge the committee to act swiftly and comprehensively by opening more detox and stabilization centers to provide essential care for those in crisis who are currently unable to access necessary treatment.

**Real Solutions, Not Recriminalization:**

I implore the committee to reject any proposals aiming to re-criminalize simple possession. Criminalization is not the answer; it exacerbates the problem, disproportionately affecting Black, Latinx, Indigenous, tribal, Native, and other communities of color. Our focus should be on real solutions, specifically rehabilitation with wrap-around services. This entails a comprehensive care approach, including increased treatment services, mobile medical units, detox and stabilization centers, and recovery housing.

**Rejecting Failed Approaches:**

Returning to the failed War on Drugs is not the solution. Harsh drug laws do not prevent drug use and addiction, as evidenced by the fact that 32 states with stricter drug laws have higher overdose rates than Oregon. We must invest in proven solutions, such as access to mental health and addiction services, and address the root causes of crime, including poverty and lack of opportunity.

**Gratitude for the Committee's Thoughtful Approach:**

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the committee for its thoughtful approach to addressing the addiction crisis in our state. I believe in the importance of maintaining Measure 110 and urge the committee to focus on real solutions that prioritize the well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Katie Collins

Portland, OR