

We have lost our small business and are about to lose our homes due to lack of income as a result of the over running of downtown by drug addicts, and the frightful unintended consequences of BM 110. We fully understand that our plight as homeowners and business owners means absolutely nothing to progressives who seem hell bent on protecting people who make bad choices, from suffering the consequences of those choices.

Please fix BM 110. As a native Oregonian I embrace the Oregon spirit of quality of life over profit. But this measure has crushed the quality of life for everyone—especially those who did not make the choice to destroy their lives with drugs. I feel that people have the right to choose whatever they want to do with their lives as long as it does NO HARM TO OTHERS. That rule has been broken. SO MUCH HARM HAS RESULTED FROM THIS MEASURE. The lack of enforcement for small quantities of really devastating drugs has failed and it has only created a new and thriving drug market for CARTELS. It must change now.

I grew up in the rural drug culture in the 70's and 80's and I believe that if people make the choice to destroy their lives with the hopeless pursuit of getting their next fix—that's their right to do so. What they DO NOT have the right to do is harm and destroy everything in their path in their lust to maintain their much desired drug life. Everyone out there is a victim of something somewhere—and to use this as a reason for preventing them from suffering ANY consequences for their decisions is frankly against Nature.

I think we agree that no one should go to prison for small amounts of drugs—BM 110 was sold to us as a means of reducing stress on law enforcement and jail populations, to find better solutions. But painfully spending a billion dollars cleaning up human waste and debris from people who do not care or take any pride in themselves is a horrific waste of resources that could be put to better use. Spending 4k a month per person for them to live in tents, all the while turning a blind eye to the rise in crime, violent assaults, property damage is absolutely the wrong way to handle this. It is punishing the homeowners and law abiding citizens who built this gorgeous city and state, those of us that maintain its balance and equilibrium. Each human being must be responsible for their own behavior and actions. We have all been victims of abuse in this patriarchal capitalist society but that doesn't give ANYONE the right to destroy our and our neighbor's well being by a totally useless and selfish pursuit. To deny the negative impacts of BM 110 is to be utterly blind. Lets build affordable housing for working families with those funds instead of cleaning up human feces and junk piles with our cars being stolen and smashed and stores being robbed and windows smashed—what a waste of hard earned dollars. What about our quality of life?

Oregonians have always been ready to pitch in to help the less fortunate, those down on their luck and the up and comers—somehow this has morphed into a misguided belief that to truly love thy neighbor as thyself is to martyr oneself and absolve others of their learning experiences and lessons. AND THEN to wallow in a smug self-satisfaction of thinking that self martyrdom equates with compassion. This is a gross misinterpretation of what compassion is. Compassion is not preventing people from learning the lessons that they came into manifestation to experience and consequences are a HUGE part of those lessons—it's practicing non-judgement and kindness, acting from a more evolved heart-mind place rather than just beating the crap out of people for making a poor decision. It's not lashing out in cruelty or for selfish reasons and giving respect beyond the human horror of the choices--standing firm in guidance without judgement but it is very definitely NOT letting people run amok destroying themselves and others because you have some warped idea of what compassion truly means. White people have co-opted and misunderstood what "compassion" is.

We as homeowners and taxpayers bear the burden and are having the tranquility of our lives assaulted. When do we learn that we must care equally for those of us who did not choose to destroy ourselves with the drugs but are tasked with picking up the pieces of the destruction. Are we not equally suffering due to the poor choices of the drug addicts? Living under threat of violence, loss and verbal abuse, unable to walk and be in our city due to the drug fueled hungry ghosts? Why is our quality of life of no concern to these misguided progressives? Why do they seek to block the consequences of personal choice for some but not for others. If you drive us out you will have nothing but a landfill and Lord of the Flies scenario.

Furthermore, we need involuntary commitment--day after day we see horribly mentally ill people living in filth, raging against unseen forces, defecating on the streets, wandering aimlessly, no food, brutalized by their illness--THIS IS NOT COMPASSION.

OUR lesson here is to find the razors edge between not surrendering, our well being, our strong belief in charity and humanity and helping those in crisis and need. The challenge is rising to love those who seem impossible to love but we must start by valuing ourselves and ensuring that life is livable for all people, including ourselves. The all out backstop has to be the rule of do no harm to others. You break the rules you must pay consequences. We must find a sense of self value and self love — not martyr ourselves to a community that has traded its soul for a drug fix. This too is a state of sin and NOT COMPASSION by any measure. We must care for ourselves and our neighbors first which will allow us to continue those who are in need.

It's crazy that we even have to argue this point. --Elle, Portland OR