

I submit this letter as written testimony regarding Measure 110:

My name is Lindsay Byrne. I am a government lawyer, married to a family medicine doctor who serves Gresham. We have a two year old daughter and live in Ladds Addition near 20th and Division area. Part of the appeal of the neighborhood is that I could walk to my (former) job at Multnomah County. My husband and I are not yet 40, but together we have 42 years of education and the student loans to show for it. We have literally worked our entire lives to be able to afford our modest one bedroom home in the city.

Since the enactment of measure 110, we have watched South East Portland descend into apocalyptic conditions. When my daughter was six months old (spring of 2022), campers took up on the grassy parking strip directly next door to our house. The camp slowly grew over a few days. Within a week there was a pop up bike chop shop going in overnight, with construction grade spot lights being used in our otherwise dark quiet neighborhood. I came home from work early one afternoon with my infant daughter in my arms and the guys in the tent were smoking meth at 3 pm, in broad daylight, 50 feet from my front door. I tried to cooperate with the property owner but he was told that the campers had a "legal right" to be there since it was technically public property. We reported the site constantly on the County run triage point. The two times police officers did show up, they told me there was nothing they could do. This went on for over a month. When the green notice finally went up, the campers bid the neighborhood adieu by throwing a brick through the window of the house across the street. That cost \$1,200 to repair. I was so stressed out about my family's safety I started having panic attacks.

A few months later, another camp was back. I had to wade through the trash a camp of intoxicated men with my infant daughter put her into her car seat with my back literally in a homeless camp. Again, there was no response from the City or County. Every time I called non-emergency to report this camp, or the one prior, I was put on hold for **over an hour** before reaching someone, who again told us there was nothing they could do. The stories go on and on how the livability of Portland has become unbearable for all residents, but particularly families.

We regularly find drug debris - such as meth pipes and needles - littered in our front yard or the sidewalk. When my daughter was learning to walk, she loved going to the end of the block to look at the statutes and play with the gravel. She has picked up drug paraphernalia. The most recent camper bid the neighborhood Adieu by leaving a jug of urine and a giant mount of trash.

I honestly can't remember how I voted on measure 110. I remember thinking it didn't really impact me because I didn't plan on doing drugs, and I generally don't care what other people do with their bodies. That thought process was short sighted. The impact on livability in the city has been tangible. There is a constant low level of anxiety wondering if our cars will be broken into or stolen, if I will be running late for work and come out to a broken window (again).

The legalization of drugs is directly correlated to increase in property crimes. Stores are closing because it is impossible to do business in Portland with constant shoplifting and break ins. My husband and I are at our breaking point with the city. Our group of friends - mid to late 30's professionals - are fleeing the city. So far out of our friends who have moved include: another government lawyer, an urban planner, an eating disorder therapist, a federal DOT employee, and a software engineer. It feels bad to think about two more civil servants leaving a city where we have lived, worked, and trained in our profession

for over a decade. But the increase in taxes and severe decline in livability makes raising a family in Portland metro seem downright foolish.

It is like the local government policies have been set up to serve the house-less population who decides to engage in street drugs. Policy needs to refocus on **working families**. Not just because we make up the majority of the tax base, but because supporting families is the best dose of prevention - to give kids a good education and environment so they don't turn into non-functioning addicts as adults. From a public safety perspective, Measure 110 has been a huge fail.

If the City/County/State actually wanted to "end homelessness," it would repeal Measure 110 to stop tacitly condoning people from transforming to drug addled zombies. Local governments would then **\*\*effectively\*\*** and efficiently work together to maximize tax payer dollars to open a mass shelter with thousands of cots/beds so there is an available bed for every person living on the street. With these beds available, the city could enforce a ban on public camping.

Repealing Measure 110 is the first step in rehabilitating the city. We need to send a message that Portland is not a place where you come to live on the streets and do drugs without consequence. Portland should once again become a funky, walkable city where you feel safe to raise a family and let your freak flag fly.

Thank you for your consideration,

Lindsay Byrne  
OSB # 113455