

We are the worst state for treatment access and among the highest for addiction. People are waiting for sometimes months to get services, literally camping out in the street to get a spot. The funding on Measure 110 was slow to roll out, so we are only beginning to see any changes. It's not enough. We need more evidence-based services. More treatment. More medical detox. More housing and behavioral health supports to keep the newly recovered stable.

Some may say that the problem is that we're not forcing people into treatment. I assure you, forcing treatment that does not exist will not fix anything. Forcing unwilling participants into treatment will also take slots away from those who want to be there and have a better chance of success. We can reexamine the merits of court ordered treatment when we're the number one state for access to services.

Some would insist we need to re-criminalize drugs and scrap 110 completely. By this point, it should be apparent that we cannot incarcerate our way out of addiction. The war on drugs failed, and prison creates barriers that keep people in the cycle of addiction.

If you want to fix 110, build our treatment capacity and figure out how to coordinate the services and oversight to get the right help to anyone who asks.