

Dear Chairs Lieber, Kropf and Members of the Joint Interim Committee on Addition and Public Safety Response,

I attended the committee meeting and public hearing on December 4th, 2023 and had signed up to testify, but was never called. I'm sure you had more interested participants than time allowed.

I write in support of major changes to Measure 110 or its total repeal.

Let me begin by letting you know I voted for Measure 110, as did most of my friends, family and colleagues.....all of which have now indicated they would support a full repeal.

I feel I was very naive at the time I voted, thinking that if drugs were decriminalized, and treatment was widely available, that would help addicts.

The reality that I've seen is exactly the opposite and I feel part and parcel to the deaths from overdoses of hundreds, and the deplorable conditions of open addiction which have ravaged our downtown and filled our morgues.

I work in downtown Portland and do not take public transportation because people openly smoke fentanyl on the buses and Max train. How can it be that one can not have an open can of beer on a sidewalk, but can possess and use drugs anywhere, anytime?

Many recovering addicts have told stories how court ordered diversion saved their lives. We need that...and we need our streets, playgrounds and public facilities free of the drug dealers and zombie-lack addicts, literally decomposing before our eyes. Why is it considered good to allow people to rot and die in public?

The common good seems to have no standing in this situation, and that is so unhealthy for us as a state and collective community.

The drugs are simply too powerful for people to "decide" to quit on their own. They can't break free...that is the nature of addiction and in the case of fentanyl, it's nearly impossible. They need help and court ordered diversion is an important tool....and we all need civic sanity.

Please change the law so that the treatment money can remain. Otherwise, based on what I see from all those I know, I believe it will be fully repealed soon by voter initiative.

Thank you all,

Susan Lindsay