

Chairs Leiber and Kropf (CROP-F), members of the committee,

My name is Nicole Henriksen. I live in Portland, OR, work in mental health, and am a Masters student in Social Work at Portland State University. I come before you because I am passionate about the implementation of harm reduction services in our communities.

We urge you to reject the calls to return to the failed War on Drugs that harmed our communities and stole the futures of so many Black and Brown Oregonians. We know that harsh drug laws DO NOT prevent drug use and addiction. 32 states have higher overdose rates than Oregon, and all of them have harsher drug laws. In my practice I have witnessed this, clients being forced into treatment and then immediately overdosing as soon after they are released.

The real solution is to increase services so that people can utilize them right when they need them and on their own terms. People have to want to get help and forcing them into it will NEVER work.

Thank you.

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She/Her/Hers
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