

Chairs Lieber and Kropf, members of the Committee, for the record my name is Donovan Scribes (fka Donovan Smith).

I am a fourth generation Oregonian, a writer and producer. and have served on a number of committees and boards throughout the Portland metro region. I'm urging you not to return to the failed policies of the War On Drugs. It will not solve our drug crisis. It **will** lock more people up. Especially Black Oregonians.

The War on Drugs did happen here. The proof is plain as day: Portland has the 5th worst arrest disparities in the country, and we have incarceration rates that mirror that in the state. If we want real solutions to deal with what we're seeing on their streets, then we can't go back to the same policies of the War on Drugs that got us here.

Instead, we need to be looking at expanding access to treatment, more mobile medical units to reach people on the street, more detox and stabilization centers, more recovery and transitional housing and we need it fast.

The problem is that there are not enough treatment services available and criminalizing addiction will not solve that problem. It will make things worse and increase the suffering on our streets.

We can't arrest our way out of homelessness. To actually solve this issue, we need to focus on affordable housing and expanded mental health and addiction treatment. Criminalization puts a target more squarely on the disenfranchised backs, while diverting money that could have went into real solutions like more rapid treatment, back into the carceral system that brought us the problems we see on our streets today.

More treatment, more care. Not jail.

Thank you,
Donovan Scribes

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