

Dear Chairs Lieber and Kropf and members of the Joint Interim Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. My name is Spencer Trumm and I live in East Portland. I'm writing today to show my support for Measure 110's critical reforms and to urge the legislature not to take us backward.

As a community organizer, my work has introduced me to people across Oregon who seek better lives for themselves and their communities. They, along with Oregonians across the state, voted overwhelmingly for Measure 110's critical reforms. They passed Measure 110 with a 16.92% margin of the vote. And they knew what they wanted when they voted for it. They wanted simple possession of small quantities of drugs to be treated as a medical matter, not a criminal one, because they knew that contending with the criminal justice system only made recovery harder. And they wanted a major increase in funding for addiction treatment and recovery services to make these lifesaving programs better and more accessible statewide.

Unfortunately, not everyone respects the wishes of everyday Oregonians, and the attacks on Measure 110 have only increased since it passed in 2020. This is the third time in 21 months that I've either testified or helped people testify to defend Measure 110's reforms from defunding and recriminalization. This is no accident—wealthy special interests have much more time and money to lobby governments and work the media than patients in recovery and the overstretched nonprofits that serve them.

But across the state, Oregonians are united in their desire to protect life, freedom, and dignity, and recognize the importance of taking a public health approach to addiction. In my organizing "beat" alone, I've worked with people in 31 state house districts—people in recovery, rehab professionals, attorneys, psychiatrists, small business owners, nurses, activists, and the family members of people whose lives had been destroyed by addiction. Their stories of pain and hope had many permutations, but one theme ran through all of them: every barrier to care is a barrier to recovery.

For example, I've listened to stories from rural patients living in Central Oregon who had to drive for hours every morning on icy backroads to get to the nearest clinic on time to receive the methadone treatment they needed. I met gay and transgender Oregonians who spoke of how hard it was to find providers who would respect their dignity and not force them to join a hostile church. And I met a young Eastern Oregonian who served on a jury that presided over a nonviolent possession case. The court wouldn't help her escape her unsafe domestic situation, and it threatened her with multiple years in prison that would've made her life even worse.

Measure 110 is breaking down these barriers. Its funds are paying for care across the state that is evidence-based, linguistically accessible, and patient-centered. And Measure 110's decriminalization protects Oregonians and their families from the life-destroying stigma of criminal convictions, and the homelessness and recidivism that stem from this stigma.

Oregon must do more and better to address the needs of people with addictions. But recriminalization wastes money and lives. It's a roadblock, not a pathway, on the way to well-being. Please don't make recovery any less accessible.

I urge you to respect the wishes of Oregon's voters and implement Measure 110 in full.

Sincerely,  
Spencer Trumm  
Portland, OR