

Testimony on HB 2089

My name is Sally Joughin, and I am writing to oppose HB 2089. I have been working on criminal justice reform for over 25 years, in New Haven CT and now in Portland OR, and have opposed the "war on drugs" as a member of organizations in both states. I was a supporter of Measure 110's concept as soon as it was announced.

Drug addiction has been a huge problem in our country for many decades, and it was obviously not solved by locking drug users up. Our country has spent a huge amount of public money arresting, prosecuting, and incarcerating, and then caused more problems by continuing to punish after release. Not only was the "war on drugs" racially and economically discriminatory, but it also negatively impacted many family members of addicted individuals. Measure 110's decriminalization of personal-use amounts of drugs is **saving the state the huge amount of tax money that was mis-spent**. Through directing money instead to treatment (which was sorely lacking in Oregon) and to all the other services individuals need for recovery and to successfully go in a new direction, Oregon will be able to achieve a significant reduction in drug addiction and the other family and community problems and costs associated with it.

Money allocated to providers to carry out Measure 110's program of treatment and essential accompanying services came from the surpluses of marijuana taxes. What an appropriate source for funding the reduction of drug addiction! It is understandable that cities & counties and the State Police want more funds, and of course they have legitimate needs for financial support. However, their needs should be addressed **without taking away any of the funding that was already allocated** to implement Measure 110, approved by the voters. Although funded providers are already on the way toward success in addressing Oregon's addiction problem, this is a long-term project, after so many years of both failure in criminal justice and inadequate access to treatment.

I am completely opposed to HB 2089. Let's fund both Peter and Paul, not rob Peter to pay Paul. Not only does Measure 110's decriminalization save Oregon significant money that can fund other entities, but Measure 110 is a model that other states could emulate to solve the whole country's drug addiction problem, provided we fund its success.