

Submitter: Renea Eure

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

Measure: HB4036

I am in support of increasing penalties for possession of controlled substances. Measure 110, aimed to overhaul the state's approach to drug addiction and prioritize treatment over punishment. However, evidence suggests that since its implementation, there has been a concerning rise in crime and drug use, necessitating a reconsideration of this legislation. As someone who has multiple close relatives and seen several others from my social circle impacted by drug use, addiction and mental health, I do not feel like Measure 110 living up to the goal and spirit of the measure. I do believe funding should continue to go to expanding to 3,000 more treatment beds, as needed by OHA. In addition, Oregon needs to invest in the justice department if they repeal or modify 110, as well as, provide better mental health resources. There is a siloed system for people to find services.

Increase in Crime:

According to law enforcement officials, the absence of serious legal consequences for drug possession under Measure 110 has emboldened drug dealers and users alike, resulting in an alarming increase in property crimes, thefts, and burglaries. The Oregon State Police reported a rise in property crimes, with some counties experiencing 20% to 40% spikes in theft incidents since Measure 110 became law (source: Oregon State Police).

Escalation of Drug Use:

Since the decriminalization of drugs and the absence of criminal penalties for drug possession under Measure 110, there has been a surge in drug-related overdoses and an expanding drug market. A study conducted by the Oregon-Idaho High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) reported a 35% increase in overdose deaths between July and September 2021, compared to the same period the previous year (source: Oregon-Idaho HIDTA).

Lack of Treatment Options:

While Measure 110 aimed to prioritize treatment, critics argue that it has not adequately provided the necessary resources and support systems for those struggling with addiction. Insufficient funding for treatment programs and limited availability of mental health services have resulted in a backlog of individuals seeking help but unable to access the necessary treatments (source: Oregon Public Broadcasting).

Conclusion:

It is important to reassess Measure 110 in light of the concerning rise in crime and

drug use in Oregon since its implementation. While the intention of prioritizing treatment over punishment is commendable, the current approach has inadvertently led to a lack of accountability for drug-related offenses and a surge in criminal activities. Repealing or reevaluating Measure 110 should involve comprehensive solutions that balance treatment and accountability, while ensuring adequate resources and support systems are in place to address addiction effectively and prevent further detrimental effects on public safety and community welfare.