

Each day, we Oregonians are reminded of the humanitarian assault that Salem's incompetence has unleashed on our neighborhoods via Measure 110's passage.

Now that most voters of all ideologies agree that passing such a referendum was egregiously cruel, there's talk about "improving prevention, increasing treatment, decreasing public use, and cleaning up Oregon's streets." Great. What took Salem's politicians so long to recognize their error by allowing such harm to be inflicted on our economies and, some would argue, on our very souls?

What we have today is a spiritual battle, one between the preservation of improved lives versus the destruction of Oregonian souls, directly and indirectly. Addressing the root cause of this obvious humanitarian crisis demands Godly principles (i.e. the "church") to overcome destructive forces and encourage repair of the political arena occupied by mostly-godless policymakers (i.e. the "state").

Secondly, Oregon's jails & prisons are already beyond capacity, resulting in catch-and-release 'convictions,' which encourages criminals to continue with their criminal behaviors. Law Enforcement Officers are doing their jobs very well, esp. given the overstuffed binders of additional laws on top of already too many laws. Where is the exit door to this accumulation of insanity? Is the solution to this humanitarian crisis to simply add even more justifications to incarcerate (i.e. more revised statutes)? The answer is an obvious 'no,' but there needs to be an extremely healthy balance (pun intended) between LE incarcerations and MH treatments, which broaches the final question: Where are all mental-health institutions, incl. the Oregon State (mental) Hospital in their efforts to efficiently and effectively treat Oregon's afflicted??

Anyone who has watched the movie "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" knows that today's society in Oregon is far beyond that fictional account. We have nowhere else to go, so the first step when finding oneself in a hole, Salem politicians, is to (respectfully) STOP DIGGING. Please focus on bringing back resource-based economies and Oregon's commensurately strong service-based jobs (~10 of them for every resource-based job).

Please pass House Bill 4036 to discover what additional corrective steps can and will be necessary to fully and completely reverse M110's abysmal trajectory from the highway to hell to a much, much better destination that all Oregonian taxpayers can know is something that's possible. Thank you.