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Co-Chairs Lieber and Kropf, Members of the Committee,

I am a primary care provider who specializes in behavioral health. I have seen first hand the ravages of drug addiction.

This country and the state of Oregon have a MASSIVE healthcare problem with a Byzantine healthcare system corrupted by the profit motive. It is no surprise that life expectancy has declined in the US, even before COVID, while our costs continue growing.

What I see as a doctor providing healthcare for Medicaid patients, is chronic infections, nutritional deficiencies, the inability to make ends meet and most of all, the lack of services to address trauma, low literacy levels and despair or serious health concerns like bipolar disorder

It is completely unrealistic and a waste of my money to think that sending people to jail, or to detox in jail, is going to address the underlying problems.

Measure 110 required two things:

- 1) the State needed to create a large number of new treatment resources, including low-barrier options, outpatient options, and residential options with wraparound services to help people get a new start.
- 2) Police needed to take on a new role by referring people they found in possession of drugs to these new treatment options.

Neither of these took place.

To further criminalize people with substance use disorders is not the solution to addiction and misery. The proposals at hand in the will only add more administrative work, kicking the problem down the road.

It is completely irresponsible from a fiscal point of view to continue investing in jails instead of treatment centers or properly funded transition facilities. This is one of the most ineffective and inhumane ways to address what is in effect a huge social and health crisis.

I strongly oppose recriminalization bills HB 4036, and SB 1555.