

My name is Michele Stroh. I am from Oregon City.

I am here today on behalf of my son Keaton who died of a one pill kill fentanyl poisoning in July 2020 when he was 25 years old and all the other Oregon Parents who have buried children due to the drug crisis that has overtaken our state. Oregon now leads the nation in the growth of drug overdoses among teenagers.

Keaton was a good kid. He joined the Marines at 19. He loved it and was proud to wear the uniform. Keaton was discharged for doing something stupid, but not at all uncommon for kids his age – he tried cocaine.

This isn't just about downtown Portland, open-air drug use and homeless camps. It's about all of us – even a 25-year Marine from a good family in Oregon City.

. For a time, he lived in California. Frankly, I wanted him to stay away from what Oregon had become – a drug mecca. Keaton was willing to stay in California but covid came and he had no choice but to come home

This may be the worst impact of Measure 110. Oregon is now THE place in the nation to use drugs, buy drugs, sell drugs, traffic drugs. The culture Measure 110 has created regarding drug use is “live and let live”. But for Keaton and many others, Measure 110 means “live and let die”. We are showing the next generation of children that illicit drugs are normal and accepted and they should never be seen in that way

Keaton died from taking one pill that he thought was an oxy but was all fentanyl. He never stood a chance against this powerful, deadly enemy. How many more kids like Keaton have to die before those of you with the power, money, and responsibility to fix Measure 110 – take bold action?

I spend my time educating youth on Keaton's story- I also got Narcan into our school district to be proactive and not reactive.

I urge you to recriminalize hard drugs as a Class A misdemeanor. A low-level Class C is NO MATCH to be real with our youth ...and 30 days is simply not enough time to save anyone who is addicted., its simply a death sentence delayed by 30 day.

I urge you to expand treatment centers. I agree with what the Governor said, we need a comprehensive set of changes to Measure 110. Prevention education treatment and accountability recovery Laws matter. Policies matter. But the law is also a teacher. And right now, Oregon is teaching all the wrong lessons. You have the power to begin to change that.

The dead can not cry out for justice – it is the duty of the living to do for them.

Thank you.