

Dear Joint Committee On Addiction and Community Safety Response

I trust this message finds you well. I am a community member in the Portland Metro Area writing to express deep concern regarding the current status of Measure 110. I believe it is imperative for our elected legislators to collaboratively devise a more effective solution to address the challenges presented by this measure. Furthermore, we strongly encourage The Governor's support in endorsing any forthcoming legislation that successfully addresses these concerns.

My primary reservation with the current iteration of Measure 110 lies in its failure to acknowledge the complex nature of drug addiction. Individuals grappling with addiction require comprehensive and nuanced interventions, as the mere availability of treatment options does not guarantee their active pursuit. Understanding the inherent challenges associated with addiction is crucial in developing policies that genuinely contribute to the well-being of affected individuals.

Equally pressing is the need to empower law enforcement agencies with the tools necessary to maintain public safety. Open air drug use, regardless of its legal status for personal consumption, poses significant challenges to community well-being. While our police force can effectively prevent public alcohol consumption, the constraints imposed by Measure 110 limits their ability to address other forms of drug-related activities. I advocate for the exploration of alternative solutions that strike a balance between individual rights and public safety.

The broader landscape of our community is marked by critical issues, including a shortage of law enforcement personnel, a growing challenge of homelessness due to a scarcity of affordable housing, and a concerning trend of some district attorneys dismissing property crimes as "victimless." Additionally, the closure of mental health facilities has led to a misguided reliance on incarceration for the mentally ill. We urge you to consider these systemic challenges and work towards comprehensive solutions that address the root causes rather than perpetuating a cycle of inaction.

It is my understanding that the committee is considering recriminalization of hard drugs as an "unclassified" misdemeanor. I, as a community member, strongly support this and ask you do as well.

I appreciate your dedication to public service and your commitment to fostering a safe and prosperous community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the positive changes that thoughtful legislation can bring.

Sincerely,

Local Community Member