



Criminal Justice Study Group

February 26, 2024

To the members of the Joint Committee on Addiction and Community Safety Response,

We are members of the Multnomah Democrats' Criminal Justice Study Group. We lobby for smart criminal justice legislation.

Thank you for your continued thoughtful approach to addressing the very serious issue of drug use and overdoses in Oregon, and how best to proceed with Measure 110. We have watched you take public testimony, sit through over 4 hours of public testimony and have many many work meetings, and it is clear the committee is very aware this is a complex problem.

But after the recent reports on how M.110 was not fully supported to be successful and the recent letter from Oregon Supreme Court Chief Justice Meagan Flynn outlining concerns and relaying that the courts are not set up for the current bills the legislature is considering, we would now urge you to **table these bills to next year**. This is such a complex and multilayered problem that a short session will not allow for the thorough workup of real solutions. In addition, you must not take any action unless a Racial & Ethnic Impact Statement has already been completed, as required by ORS 137.683

Furthermore, it would be unacceptable to create any program that allows unequal outcomes, such as each county being allowed to decide whether or not to provide a deflection program. This would be contrary to legislators' declared intent to help all individuals struggling with addiction to get into treatment.

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