

Dear Ms. Sandy

2-4-29

Hello I hope This finds you well and in good spirits. Recently I found out There may be legislation proposing to re-criminalize user-level possession drug laws being floated around?

I myself do not suffer from addiction or worry such laws will effect me personally. Growing up on a Native American Reservation, and then being sent to prison has given me a lifelong lived experience with These issues.

Looking at addiction as a crime is a crime in itself. And rather archaic. The state always loves statistics. So why ignore 50+ years of factual based information to submit opinion-based words on a paper just to look like your doing your job. (not you, but lawmakers that believe everything is so black and white)

As we know drugs are the strategy used to cover-up the real issue. Its easy to then say treatment is better than incarceration, when in fact treatment is just a "better" strategy than treating an addict like a dog, with treatment being a better alternative, and the focus being on the trauma that is the problem. we can focus now on earlier stages of addiction development to find more tools to help our fellow community members.

Drugs and Alcohol have devastated every low-income, poverty stricken community in our country. In the same way measure it has forever changed the connection, guidance and family functioning structure here in Oregon. These are methods that have

Stained our moral fabric and led to as much generational Trauma as any other single large-scale tragedy of our time.

If we want to be a state, a community, a family of healing and positive optimism for the next 7 generations we need to start sometime.

Why not with recognizing we are all humans with feelings and needs. And we are not all in the "sameplace" in life. Therefore some will have ineffective strategies to cope with our pain or issues. We do not need more punishment. We need more compassion and understanding. We need purpose and safety. We need to be seen and heard.

The re-criminalization of self-use possession of drugs is ridiculous in 2024. And helps no one.

Thank you for your time
-RARIN

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