

I know it may not serve some of you and your politics well right now to support this Law. But, based on the large amount of Oregonians who are expressing support for this bill, some who have had the misfortune of being affected by drug overdoses, I assure you most people will understand the importance of filling this gap in Oregon Law on behalf of all drug overdose victims.

This includes all drug overdose victims; Regardless of race, social economic status, creed, affiliation or any other category that human beings come in. I understand that the majority party will have reservations about this bill. However, the overdose deaths and related addiction disorders of thousands of Oregon citizens should not be a political, partisan issue. The fact is that every single one of us is affected by addiction and related deaths from it. Every single one of us, regardless of political leanings, has somebody in their life that is addicted and likely to overdose, or who already has or who will.

This repair of the gap in our drug sentencing law will save lives, will hold drug dealers appropriately accountable, and give them ample time to reconsider their behavior, and hopefully course correct their own lives.

This Law is not in anyway a “War on Drugs policy”. We are not in support of locking up the very people we are trying to help. To the contrary, we support better options and access for treatment of the people who are struggling with addiction themselves, and who need treatment and recovery services. We do not want them going to prison for their addiction disorder. I am in favor of prison and some sentencing reform in regards to the criminalization of drug addiction.

We do want vulnerable, addicted people to get help without being preyed upon by their addiction, as well as the drug dealers making profit off of their disease and their deaths as well.

In response to the ACLU’s and OCDLA’s arguments: We would agree that we should “continue to widen the distribution of the opioid antidote

naloxone, rapidly scale-up evidence-based treatment and recovery services, and reduce stigma associated with substance use and addiction.” That being said it seems that there is much common ground for us to start working together toward compromise on this legislation and for working together forward on improving other policy that would change the way we as a society deal with people who have the unfortunate assignment of addiction disorder and other mental health issues in our communities.

Detractors to this law fail to address the lack of a fair prosecutorial tool in our laws for holding people accountable for a homicide.

This law is only a part of what needs to be a comprehensive approach to the problem. However, it does address the lack of accountability in the current drug laws as it applies to drug overdose deaths caused by someone selling drugs for profit to an addicted person.

Please pass this bill forward and support it becoming law. Help us not have any more tragedies like Taylor’s in our citizens lives.

Respectfully, Brian Martinek