

Dear Chair Prozanski and members of the Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110 Implementation,

My name is Alberto Rincon-Pardo and I am a student at the University of Portland. I am writing to you today in support of SB 755.

I believe that one of the most important things that we can do in our society is helping those in need. People suffering from addiction need help and the State of Oregon has the power, the money, and the mandate from the voters to help them access the recovery care they need. Failure to properly fund the services ordered by Measure 110 and supported in this bill will prolong the torment of Oregonians trapped in addiction's cycle of pain. With overdose deaths for all drugs in Oregon skyrocketing since 2019, inaction at the Capitol can even mean death on the streets.

By implementing the portions of Measure 110 that decriminalized simple possession of small quantities of drugs, our state has made important steps toward reducing people's likelihood of getting trapped in a justice system that has a history of disproportionately targeting and punishing Black, indigenous, and Latino people for drug offenses instead of offering them treatment when they need it. We now must build on these changes by implementing the rest of Measure 110, which also provides funding for low-barrier, linguistically-accessible, trauma-informed, culturally-responsive programs to meet Oregonians' specific needs.

Passing SB 755 to implement Measure 110's critical community services will save lives and end the inequities that have prevented Oregonians from accessing the help they need. I urge you to fully fund and support this essential piece of legislation.

Sincerely,
Alberto Rincon-Pardo