

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

My name is Emma. I live in Senate District 18, and House District 36. I am a student experiencing my first year at University of Oregon remotely.

In high school, I debated drug decriminalization. I spent hundreds of hours examining Portugal, Italy, Netherlands and Switzerland's programs and digging through peer reviewed articles on addiction. I had to find the best arguments and evidence for both sides of the issue, and with an in-depth understanding of the facts on both sides, I concluded not only drugs should be decriminalized, but treatment is an essential part of ameliorating the addiction crisis.

One in ten Oregonians struggles with Substance Use Disorder, and people are dying from drug overdoses every single day. These are preventable and needless deaths. 12,000 Oregonians a year look for, but cannot access lifesaving treatment. Covid has only compounded these numbers.

The 12,000 people seeking treatment for their substance use disorder — and their loved ones — can't afford to wait. By funding this measure, you can save their lives.

Thank you.  
Sincerely,  
Emma Koontz