

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

My name is Liz Karaffa and I am one of your constituents in Dundee. I am also a pastor in the area and a wife and mother. I'm in the process of getting my Masters with a focus on trauma. Addiction has become very near and dear to my heart, because the largest precursor for it is unresolved trauma.

I am delighted that Measure 110 passed so that we actually use treatment, instead of ineffective punishment, to bring healing and recovery to people in desperate need. I am filled with hope that the council is made up of people who have experience with addiction and who are centering on the needs of the communities hit the hardest by addiction. I love the emphasis on a trauma-informed response to this issue.

The pandemic is only making things worse; new data from the Oregon Health Authority show that drug overdose deaths in Oregon were up 70 percent this spring compared to that same time last year. Lawmakers must ensure that the law is fully funded, without delay to address this crisis. Will you work to uphold this new law that voters voted on? It will make our community safer and healthier.

Thank you for your service to our community and for your care for the well-being of everyone. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this pressing issue! Have a lovely week. Talk to you soon.

Warmly,

Liz Karaffa