

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

My name is Ann Romer, she/her, I live in Multnomah County and am a constituent of Senator Fredericks. I am the Board Secretary and long time volunteer for Unite Oregon because of its important mission to build intercultural organizing for justice. Professionally, I support community health centers to implement electronic tools or person-centered, team-based approaches to primary and specialty care to help patients seeking healthcare for their substance use disorder. Addiction requires healthcare, not punishment. A war on drugs does not work, has never worked, and puts people in harms way, even incentivizing police to use excessive and violent force. Funding should not be put in the service of being "tough", but rather towards providing health care to people suffering with addiction health needs. Effective addiction treatment exists and needs to be scaled up equitably to support everyone suffering, and in particular to meet the needs of communities disproportionately impacted by so called "tough on drugs" policies. Compared to the prison industrial complex, measure 110 promotes good, prevents harm, and saves money. The need to act on this legislation is now, and there is no good reason for delay.