

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

My name is Kathryn Collins, of Multnomah County. I appreciate your  
advocacy of SB 755.

As a mother, as a daughter, as a sister, as a wife, I have witnessed the  
generational impact of addiction, and my hope that the swift and  
meaningful implementation of SB 755 will not only help individuals from  
all walks of life overcome their addictions, it will raise awareness and  
remove the stigma of addiction and become a model for other  
communities. Where there is stigma and shame, there are secrets, and  
secrets are an immense barrier in seeking help.

Seven years ago, my (estranged) husband committed suicide. He was  
an addict (alcohol and prescription drugs), and he was also the son of  
an addict, both of which he was too ashamed to talk about. The fear  
that my own son could follow into this abyss never leaves me. The  
ripple effect of addiction, and the trauma and personal guilt that follows,  
transcends generations and communities.

A swift and robust implementation of SB755 cannot happen fast  
enough, the current trajectory of addiction-related deaths and costs to  
communities cannot be minimized. We owe these efforts to our own  
families now, as well as to our future generations' families and  
communities.

Thank you

Kathryn Collins