

I wanted to submit testimony to show my support for measure 110 and to encourage others to support it and its speedy implementation.

I hope legislators and representatives, and whoever else, can quickly get to work in implementing measure 110 so we can start dealing with addiction, drug abuse, homelessness, overdose, mental health, poverty, desperation, hopelessness, and other interconnecting issues in a better, more compassionate, and realistic way. We need to work together and listen to mental health experts, addicts, and recreational users, as well as follow the lead of other communities, states, and countries, to finally confront these problems in healthy and effective ways that will actually work in meaningful and lasting ways, as well as undo the harm we've done to so many individuals, people groups, and families through criminalizing drugs, homelessness, and so much else in the misguided and harmful war on drugs. We need to get to the root of these problems to prevent or treat them, in individualized, specific, and effective ways- not continue criminalizing the end results which just leads to more desperation, poverty, drug abuse, overdose, homelessness, and so many other problems. We need to break the many hurtful loops we're all stuck in, and especially those that drug users are stuck in. We know by now criminalization is not the answer and only serves to exacerbate all these problems, as well as lead to completely unnecessary and preventable harm and ineffective use of resources. I'm so glad to see that Oregonians decided to start taking these much needed steps in a better direction to truly deal with the problems of our times. We should all be united in fighting for our fellow human beings and their fair and compassionate treatment. We are all only a small distance away from experiencing the worst problems in our communities, so I'm glad to see more people realizing that and working on the problems finally instead of trying to ignore, demonize, or criminalize them away.

I believe this process starts most effectively at the state/ local levels with quality and compassionate education, coupled with taking steps to start addressing these issues in humane and helpful restorative ways. I hope this is a great step in that direction and we allocate the necessary resources to do that. It will not be a waste, but more a powerful and necessary investment which will lead to better lives, and stronger, thriving, more inclusive communities.