

Testimony regarding SB-755

Submitted by: Charlotte MacDonald, resident of St John's Portland, OR

I am represented at the state level by these elected officials:

The Honorable Senator Lew Frederick (SD 22)

The Honorable House Speaker Representative Tina Kotek (HD 44)

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

My name is Charlotte MacDonald and I am a mother of two teenagers being raised in Portland, Oregon, in the St. John's neighborhood. My two children attend Portland Public Schools since kindergarten. One of the first lessons they ever learned from their kindergarten teacher was how to play safely at recess time on the school playground. Their teacher taught them how to identify a hypodermic needle, how to not touch the needle and how to get the attention of a school staff on yard duty to remove the needle. Drug addiction and illicit drug use by addicts on the street, often living as unhoused people, is so common in Portland that consequences from the use of street drugs forms one of the first lessons my children ever learned in kindergarten .

Some people say that lessons learned in kindergarten form their basis for understanding society. Though that is overstated, it is true that absolute fundamentals are taught to our young children . If SB 755 passes and supports the implementation of measure 110, Oregon will take a leading role in changing a fundamental aspect of our society: we will begin to treat drug addiction with the comprehensive treatment needed to truly support recovery. Instead of teaching every future generation of kindergarteners about how to identify and dispose of needles, how about we envision a future in which there are no needles lying around in public parks and playgrounds.

As a mother, on behalf of every Oregonian child, I urge you to pass SB 755.

Sincerely,

Charlotte MacDonald

St John's, Portland OR