

Dear Chair Prozanski and Members of the Committee,

My name is Frank Patka, and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 755 and to urge you to implement and fund the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act as voters intended.

What is the point of changing the way we do things? The point is usually something that is no longer serving its original purpose effectively anymore. In the case of Measure 110, the point is to increase the support of services that treat addiction issues to reduce the mass incarceration problems the criminal justice system has created.

The community of Oregon voted to initiate Measure 110 and implement the changes as soon as possible. I voted for this measure to be implemented because I understand treatment facilities are more effective in helping people with addiction problems than incarceration in jail and prison. As the director of Changing Patterns, an organization serving Deschutes County with a mission *to reduce recidivism by connecting returning citizens from prison to employment opportunities, resources, and mentors.*

As a returned citizen who has experience being incarcerated and going through treatment programs, I know education from treatment services is much healthier for individuals and our community than the lessons one learns through time incarcerated.

When someone attends a treatment program, they are taught communication and critical thinking skills, given opportunities to practice new behaviors in a safe environment, and have a chance to develop new, healthier relationships.

Behind the bars of a jail and prison cell, someone learns a whole different way of communicating. Incarceration warehouses antisocial communication lessons with major in manipulation.

Where do you want people who are struggling to behave as prosocial and healthy community members to go learn how to change these behaviors?

Right now, there are funds allocated to accomplishing the reasons why we, *the people*, voted for Measure 110. I am writing this to ask you to show us your support in Oregon voters and start investing allocated funds as outlined in the Drug Addiction Treatment and Recovery Act. These funds can be granted to support **existing programs** currently offering treatment services. The sooner we start supporting this change in the criminal justice system, the sooner we will start experiencing the results we voted for in the election.

Thank you for your service to our community in Oregon, and I look forward to seeing your support of this change by funding treatment services with the money that is currently available.

Sincerely,  
Frank Patka, IV