



February 28th, 2021

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

I'm writing on behalf of Unite Oregon in support of SB 755. Unite Oregon is led by people of color, immigrants and refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty, we work across Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice. We represent over 13,000 supporters and members across the state. SB 755 is one of these key policies that will help achieve racial justice within our public safety system.

Oregonians believe that our public safety system should be equitable and just for all communities. However, in Oregon and throughout the US, people of color, immigrants, and refugees face discrimination at every stage of the process, especially when it comes to drugs. That's wrong and reprehensible. Decriminalizing drug possession and expanding access to treatment will help reduce the racial disparities in our criminal justice system, and help all Oregonians who suffer from addiction.

Delaying funding for treatment will prolong and deepen racial inequities created by our criminal justice system, and deepen disparities within our healthcare system. By fully implementing the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act, we have an opportunity to stand up for Oregon's values of racial equity, justice and healing. We can revitalize communities, keep families whole and open up economic opportunities.

Last November, Unite Oregon and our members joined with other Oregonians to pass Ballot Measure 110 by a 17 point margin. Voters recognized the tremendous need to shift to a health-based approach to addiction and increase access to addiction recovery services in our state. Please support SB 755; in doing so you will reduce the racial disparities in our criminal justice system and save lives.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sushma Raghavan".

Sushma Raghavan
Interim Executive Director