

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

I am writing in support of SB 775 and to urge you to do everything you can to ensure the full implementation of the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act as quickly as possible. Oregon is in an overdose crisis and has failed to invest in the kind of coordinated, well-resourced treatment system that would help people recover and live long, healthy lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has only heightened this crisis, and as we've seen in our healthcare system across the board during this pandemic, has exacerbated underlying racial disparities. Any delay in full funding for this Act means suffering and loss that could be prevented through increased treatment and support. This is not something that can wait until after the pandemic is resolved.

You have the opportunity to take concrete steps toward reducing harm and providing access to life-saving support through implementation of the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act, and doing so is urgent. People experiencing substance use disorder — and their loved ones — can't afford to wait.

Sincerely,
Angela Butel