

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

I am writing in support of SB 755 because I care deeply about supporting safe and equitable communities.

Oregon ranks nearly last of all states in access to basic drug treatment, and our addiction crisis is not only destroying lives but fueling many of our state's most pressing issues, such as houselessness and poverty. Instead of providing people with the treatment they need, we are making the problem worse by arresting and saddling them with even more barriers to recovery such as jail time, criminal records that lead to discrimination in their job search, housing, credit, etc, and harmful immigration status consequences like revocation of DACA status.

Funding the culturally responsive, wraparound addiction recovery services as outlined in the Drug Addiction Treatment & Recovery Act through SB 755 will provide life-saving interventions to keep members of our community safe and help those struggling with addiction in their recovery journey.

When Oregonians passed ballot measure 110 last November by a significant margin, we made it clear that we want to save lives, not ruin them, by shifting from punishing drug addiction to using a humane, health-based, treatment-first approach.

This bill is important to me on a personal level as someone who has lost loved ones to addiction and overdose. I am also passionate about it on a practical level, as it costs nearly \$30,000 to arrest, prosecute, and jail someone for simple drug possession, and only about \$10,000 to provide drug treatment to those who want it. And an independent research report by the Oregon Criminal Justice Commission found that this measure will nearly eliminate racial disparities for drug arrests and convictions- they project that racial disparities in drug arrests will drop by 95%, and convictions of Black and Indigenous Oregonians would drop by 94%.

Whether you consider this bill through the lens of equity, humanity, or financial savings, it is a no-brainer. So please support SB 755; in doing so you will save lives.

Thank you.