

Submitter: Lynelle Wilcox

On Behalf
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1541

I am writing to strongly oppose SB1541. Many people struggle with addiction for various reasons. Some homeless individuals fall into substance use and abuse because it can be one way to deal with the trauma, cold, abuse, discrimination, and physical pain of living on the streets, in survival mode, with minimal or no shelter from the elements. The need for recovery services or supports is much bigger than our current recovery programs, services, and agencies can support. Wait lists can be long, with people falling through the cracks along the way.

I am strongly opposed to any measures that have a connecting reduction to the Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Fund. Those funds were established to help meet the need and close the gap for people looking for treatment and recovery services.

Aside from wanting those funds to be fully available for their intended purpose, SB 1541 reflects a misguided priority. We're in the middle of a worldwide pandemic, with homelessness at a level of being a humanitarian crisis. Unlawful marijuana cultivation and distribution seems like the least of our worries. Please vote against SB 1541, on principle, and so that all Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Funds can go to that actual purpose.

We have more important things to do than chasing pot growers and distributors. Treatment and recovery services and associated funds enable more people to get help, with fewer people having long waits for treatment and recovery services, and with fewer people falling through the cracks. Treatment and recovery services and associated funds can actually improve health, save lives and families, and can also help to reduce homelessness. Those funds are very needed, in full, for their intended purpose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lynelle Wilcox