

Submitter: Onesha Cochran Dumas

On Behalf Of: myself

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110
Implementation

Measure: SB1541

O'Nesha Cochran-Dumas

Testimony

Against SB1541

2/7/2022

In 2020 Measure 110 was voted in by our community at 58.46 % in favor of decriminalizing drug addiction and creating a more humane way to treat substance use disorder. That means one million three hundred and thirty three thousand two hundred and sixty eight people agreed that it was time to do something radically different to support all the families who have been marginally affected by this disease.

The disease of addiction is killing people in our communities. We cannot argue that fact. Since Ballot Measure 110 was voted in, our overdose fatality rate has increased by 40%. By submitting bill SB1541 you are saying that fighting illegal marijuana growing is more important than human lives and your constituents disagree.

Not only is treating addiction humanely, a statement to how Oregonians value human life; but I must remind you we are in the throes of a deadly pandemic. Medical teams in the state of Oregon have complained about overcrowded emergency rooms and shared concerns that those coming into the emergency rooms for care are at risk of exposure to COVID.

It is no secret that those who suffer from the disease of addiction over utilize the E.R. Measure 110 can help decrease those E.R visits. It is also common knowledge that a large percent of our houseless community are on the streets due to severe substance use disorders. Measure 110 can potentially reduce the numbers of bodies living on the streets as well.

Enabling Measure 110 to address the original crisis the voters agreed it should address, could quite possibly free up the emergency room so competent medical staff can use it primarily for COVID patients. And potentially clear our streets of people who are house-less by providing them with solutions.

We are begging the senate today to make the right decision and place value on human life. Thank you for your time.