

Submitter: Ryan Otto

On Behalf  
Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary and Ballot Measure 110  
Implementation

Measure: SB1541

As a member of the Oregon public who works in addiction recovery and has been directly impacted by the lack of available harm reduction resources for people who use drugs in Oregon, I firmly oppose the motion to allocate tax revenue intended for substance use recovery and harm reduction to the further the failed war on drugs. Oregon voters passed measure 110 because we have seen that criminalizing substances does nothing to help the people harmed by them. Worse, concentrating finite state resources on penalizing people for drug cultivation and sale provides police with a legally ironclad excuse to over-police communities of color, causing irreparable harm to these communities. I urge members of the senate to vote alongside the voices and interests of the Oregon public by refusing to give funds initially intended for evidence-based harm reduction services to the empirically unsound practice of substance criminalization. A "Yes" vote on SB 1541 will go against the expressed will of the Oregon public, and will support the foundering and unambiguously harmful and ineffective war on drugs.