

SUBJECT: Support SB 1065

Chair Prozanski, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

Hello. I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Daniel Resnick and I am a third-year medical student pursuing psychiatry at Western University COMP-NW. I just wanted to reach out to ask you to support SB 1065. As an aspiring addiction psychiatrist this issue plays a key role in my patient's lives and drug convictions often create significant barriers to patient's recovering and reintegrating into our communities. I previously worked in mental health and drug rehabilitation and have seen the struggles first hand of good people seeking to grow and establish healthier ways of living who saw their progress stymied by an inability to rent apartments, get jobs, or otherwise build new foundations for their lives.

I have personally witnessed people with past drug convictions become impeccable nurses, technicians, and even physicians after their records were expunged. I'm proud to call some of them dear friends whose previous struggles actually enhance their compassion and give them unique skills and perspectives in helping engage others seeking to overcome similar struggles. For the few who managed to overcome the stigma of their past, countless others are forced to wear an albatross around their necks which traps them in a cycle of struggle and suffering. We have the power to start ending the stigma of past nonviolent drug use and empower more people to become thriving and contributing members of society.

M110 ended the failed experiment of criminalizing drug use, but it did not restore rights to those Oregonians who were convicted of drug possession prior to its enactment into law. The Oregon Legislature has the opportunity and the duty to remove the obstacles faced by people in our state who want to live better lives. I hope that you will pass Senate Bill 1065 to set aside prior drug convictions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Daniel Resnick, OMS III, MBA from Bend, OR

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