

We are members of the Multnomah Democrats' Criminal Justice Study Group, which supports sensible legislation to promote justice. The group has testified in support of successful implementation of Measure 110, because drug treatment and services are essential to addressing the serious problem of drug addiction, and especially in Oregon which was seriously lacking assistance programs. The people of Oregon voted to decriminalize personal use and to greatly increase assistance, funded (appropriately) by excess marijuana taxes.

We are also supporters of the programs provided by Economic Equity Investment, and there is a positive connection between these two helpful programs. Both should certainly be funded by our state. But it would not make good sense to rob one program to pay for the other. M.110 called for funding via marijuana taxes beyond a certain threshold, and therefore HB 3431 should not have sought funding for Economic Equity by taking it away from what was already granted to drug addiction services. These important programs should not be competing for the same source.

Fortunately, the sponsors of HB 3431 have now found a different revenue source for Economic Equity. We call on the House Revenue Committee to vote for the amended version of the bill. Oregon can be a leader in **strongly funding both** substance use assistance and economic equity!

Sally Joughin
Anthony Fischer
Layla Assem
Jim Kahan